

Adjectives And Degrees Of Comparison

ADJECTIVES

Words that describe a noun or a pronoun are called *adjectives*.

- Examples :**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) He has three sisters. | (b) His house is there. |
| (c) Shalini wore a new dress. | (d) He has a blue pen. |
| (e) Rohan is a good boy. | (f) This is a big bag. |

In the above examples, 'three', 'his', 'new', 'blue', 'good' and 'big' are adjectives since they describe the nouns 'sister', 'house', 'dress', 'pen', 'boy' and 'bag' respectively.

Adjectives are also called describing words. We must use appropriate adjectives to describe people or things. Examples of other adjectives are words like **honest** girl, **sincere** worker, **intelligent** child and **confident** boy.

FEATURES

- An adjective is a descriptive word.
- It modifies a noun or a pronoun.

POSITION OF ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are usually placed before nouns, but sometimes they may be placed after nouns as well.

- Examples :**
- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Ragini is a <u>creative</u> <u>person</u> .
adjective noun
(adjective placed before the noun) | |
| (b) That girl is <u>creative</u> .
noun adjective
(adjective placed after the noun) | |
| (c) The dress is <u>new</u> .
noun adjective | (d) The child is <u>pretty</u> .
noun adjective |

Circle the adjectives of the underlined nouns.

Example : Ripe mangoes are delicious.

- The princess had long and black hair.
- Mohan is a hard-working student.
- A wedding in the family is a perfect opportunity to know your relatives.
- The holy river Ganga is very polluted now.
- Every teacher wants to see tidy work.
- That car is beautiful.
- These are his paintings.
- We will reach home after two weeks.



KINDS OF ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are of six kinds :



ADJECTIVES OF QUALITY

An adjective of quality describes the quality of a person or thing.

- Examples :**
- (a) The teacher asked me a **simple** question.
 - (b) The lesson was **interesting**.
 - (c) The bag is **colourful**.
 - (d) The bangles are **lovely**.

The words printed in bold are adjectives of quality.

ADJECTIVES OF QUANTITY

An adjective of quantity specifies the quantity of a thing.

- Examples :**
- (a) Give me **some** water.
 - (b) There is **enough** sugar in the jar.
 - (c) She added **some** honey to the milk.
 - (d) She has got **much** relief after the treatment.

The words printed in bold are adjectives of quantity.

ADJECTIVES OF NUMBER

An adjective of number tells how many persons or things are meant.

- Examples :**
- (a) **Several** people got into the train.
 - (b) There are **forty** students in this class.
 - (c) I have **three** pens.
 - (d) He has **one** box.

The words several, forty, three and one are adjectives of number.

Some other adjectives of number are words like **first**, **second**, **third** which show in what order a thing or a person stands. They are also known as **ordinal adjectives**.

- Examples :**
- (a) The **fifth** boy in the row is not in proper uniform.
 - (b) The **third** seat is empty.

Words like one, two or three are cardinals and are also used as adjectives.

- Examples :**
- (a) There are **two** packets in the cupboard.
 - (b) I saw **three** boys in the park.

Use of Much, Many

Let us discuss the use of these adjectives in detail.

We always use **much** to indicate quantity, **many** to indicate number. In other words, we use **much** with uncountables, **many** with countables.

- Examples :**
- (a) There is **much** work yet to be completed.
 - (b) There is **much** arrangement to be made.



- (c) There are **many** ladies in the room.
 (d) He attended to **many** customers during the day.

Use of Few, A Few, Little, A Little

We use **little** to denote quantity, **few** to indicate number. To indicate almost none, we use **little** and **a little** means some. Similarly **few** means almost none, **a few** means some.

- Examples :**
- (a) He got **little** help from his friends. (almost no help)
 - (b) She got **a little** help from her friends. (some help)
 - (c) There were **few** people in the auditorium. (almost no people)
 - (d) There were **a few** people in the auditorium. (some people)

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ADJECTIVES OF QUANTITY AND ADJECTIVES OF NUMBER

Adjectives of quantity are used with uncountable nouns like **water**, **milk** and **rice**. We can say **much** milk, **a little** milk, **sufficient** milk to show quantity of milk (uncountable noun).

Adjectives of number are used with countable nouns like books and glasses. We can write **many** books, **few** books and **several** books.

Some adjectives like some and sufficient can be used for both countable and uncountable.

B. Identify the adjectives and classify them as adjectives of quality, quantity and number.

Example : Few people came to the party. (adjective of number)

1. The children played loud music.
2. Street dogs often become violent towards human beings.
3. Some rice is left in the refrigerator.
4. Is there any letter for me from the bank?
5. Arnav loves to watch horror movies.
6. Many students gathered at the gate to appear for the test.
7. There isn't much ice in the fridge.
8. One boy of class VI won the competition.
9. We kept a few apples in the basket.
10. There was much excitement among the people.



DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

A demonstrative adjective is used to point out some persons or things.

- Examples :**
- (a) **These** bikes are not parked properly.
 - (b) **Such** players always play for the team.

FEATURE

- Demonstrative adjectives answer the question : 'which one?'.

INTERROGATIVE ADJECTIVES

Adjectives that are used with nouns to ask questions are interrogative adjectives.

- Examples:**
- (a) **What** question did the teacher ask?

Demonstrative adjectives are this, that, these, those, such and certain.

Interrogative adjectives are words like whose, what and which.

Interrogative and demonstrative adjectives must be followed by a noun. If it is not followed by a noun, it is neither an interrogative adjective nor a demonstrative adjective.

- (b) **Whose** bat is that?
(c) **Which** book is yours?

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

A possessive adjective shows possession or belonging.

- Examples :** (a) **His** pen is on the table.
(c) **Your** bike is new.
(e) **Her** house is near the post office.
(g) **Your** bags are kept inside.

Possessive adjectives		
	Singular	Plural
First Person	my	our
Second Person	your	your
Third Person	his, her, its	their

- (b) **My** car is at the service station.
(d) **Its** tyres are big.
(f) **Our** school is closed today.
(h) **Their** answer sheets are checked.

C Identify the adjectives in the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct options. The first one has been done for you.

- That house is mine.
- Megha is wearing your earrings.
- Whose pencil is lying on the floor?
- I could not answer this question.
- Her pen is with Shyam.
- That house needs repair.
- Our car has been parked near the gate.
- Which girl is going to play the role of Cinderella?
- They are very happy as their son has won the competition.

- ✓
(demonstrative, interrogative, possessive)
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SOME OTHER TYPES OF ADJECTIVES

Proper Adjectives : These are adjectives which are formed from proper nouns, e.g., Asian, Christian.

Emphatic Adjectives : They influence the effect of the noun they are modifying, e.g., **absolutely** knowledge, **utter** lie.

Participle Adjectives : Sometimes participles (-ing words used before nouns) are used as adjectives, e.g., **flying** saucer, **running** bus.

D Tick (✓) the correct adjectives. (Hint : The types of adjectives are mentioned in the brackets.)

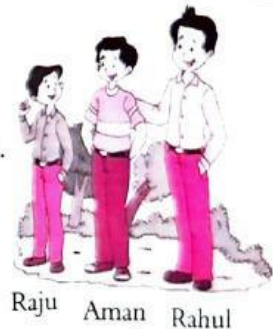
- The girl could speak Chinese only. (proper adjective)
(a) Chinese ☐ (b) beautiful ☐
- students received awards in the school. (adjectives of number)
(a) Some ☐ (b) Twenty ☐
- Please return books to me. (demonstrative adjective)
(a) a few ☐ (b) those ☐
- I am advised to add soya to my diet. (adjective of quantity)
(a) some ☐ (b) many ☐
- house is very far from here. (possessive adjective)
(a) That ☐ (b) My ☐
- I love to be in my house as it is very (adjective of quality)
(a) cosy ☐ (b) tall ☐
- Can you climb tree? (demonstrative adjective)
(a) one ☐ (b) this ☐

8. She sprained ankle during the practice session. (possessive adjective)
 (a) such ☐ (b) her
9. fruit is available during this season? (interrogative adjective)
 (a) Which ☐ (b) This
10. You have time to complete your homework. (adjective of quantity)
 (a) a little ☐ (b) several
11. Your payment is due on the Monday of the month. (adjective of number)
 (a) three ☐ (b) first
12. I need a knife to cut the vegetables. (adjective of quality)
 (a) sharp ☐ (b) few
13. book would you like to read? (interrogative adjective)
 (a) Which ☐ (b) This
14. The new manager does not have experience in this field. (adjective of quantity)
 (a) much ☐ (b) good
15. I am scared of dogs. (demonstrative adjective)
 (a) your ☐ (b) these

DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Adjectives change in form when they show comparison.

- Examples :** (a) Raju is **tall**. (b) Aman is **taller** than Raju.
 (c) Rahul is the **tallest** of the three.



These changed forms are called *degrees of comparison*.

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison that are as follows :

1. **Positive Degree :** An adjective is said to be in the positive degree when there is no comparison.

- Examples :** (a) Roy is a **strong** boy. (b) Rita is a **generous** girl.

2. **Comparative Degree :** An adjective is said to be in the comparative degree when it is used to compare two nouns/pronouns.

- Examples :** (a) Roy is **stronger** than Ram. (b) Sneha is **fitter** than Mona.

3. **Superlative Degree :** An adjective is in the superlative degree when it is used to compare more than two nouns/pronouns.

- Examples :** (a) Raja is the **strongest** of the three boys. (b) He is the **healthiest** of them all.

FEATURES

- Positive degree is used when there is no comparison.
 - The comparative degree is used when the comparison is between two nouns or pronouns.
 - The superlative degree is used when the comparison is between more than two nouns or pronouns.
- We use article 'the' before the superlative degrees.

FORMATION OF COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE DEGREES OF ADJECTIVES

Adjectives usually form their comparative and superlative degrees :

1. by addition of '-er' and '-est' to the positive degree

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
clever	cleverer	cleverest
rich	richer	richest
thick	thicker	thickest
young	younger	youngest

2. by addition of '-r' and '-st' to the positive degree ending in '-e'

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
brave	braver	bravest
noble	nobler	noblest
pale	paler	palest
wise	wiser	wisest

3. When the positive ends in 'y' and has a consonant before it, we change 'y' into 'i' and then add '-er' and '-est'

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
easy	easier	easiest
happy	happier	happiest
lazy	lazier	laziest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest

4. by addition of '-er' and '-est' to the positive degree when it ends in '-y'

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
gay	gayer	gayest
grey	greyer	greyest

5. When the positive degree ends in a consonant with a vowel before it, we double the consonant and add '-er' and '-est'.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
hot	hotter	hottest
fat	fatter	fattest
thin	thinner	thinnest

6. by placing 'more' and 'most' before the positive form

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
suitable	more suitable	most suitable
important	more important	most important

7. Some adjectives do not follow any of the rules explained earlier. They are compared irregularly. These are the different forms of such adjectives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
far	farther further	farthest (distance) furthest (to show position)

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less, lesser	least
later	later	latest (time)
	latter	last (position)
many (number) } much (quantity) }	more	most
near	nearer	nearest
old	older	oldest
	elder	eldest

Use of Older, Oldest, Elder, Eldest

- We use **elder** and **eldest** only with persons but not with animals or things. These words are used with members of the same family.
Examples : (a) Her **elder** sister is a singer. (b) Her **eldest** sister has gone to Japan.
- If we use the word **than** in a sentence, we use older and not elder.
Example : Rohan is **older** than his sister.
- Older** and **oldest** can be used both with persons and things.
Examples : (a) Soma is the **oldest** girl in our team.
(b) That is the **oldest** monument in the city.

E. Circle the *adjectives* and name the *degree of comparison* of each. The first one has been done for you.

1. The young man was more successful than his friend.
positive comparative

- Jay is taller than Ravi.
- The longest lane is still closed for the public.
- The happy child played with others.
- Solomon was one of the wisest men.
- Jeet's dog has become lazy.
- Mr Sharma is wealthier than Mr Verma.
- Let me listen to the most important news of the day.
- During summer, Delhi is hotter than Kolkata.
- May and June are the hottest months in North India.



F. Give the *comparative* and *superlative* degrees of these adjectives.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. sad | 8. long | 15. grey | 22. costly |
| 2. hot | 9. many | 16. active | 23. expensive |
| 3. cold | 10. much | 17. old | 24. strange |
| 4. little | 11. bold | 18. clean | 25. famous |
| 5. late | 12. high | 19. holy | 26. hardworking |
| 6. fit | 13. fine | 20. charming | 27. far |
| 7. lucky | 14. broad | 21. cheerful | 28. good |

G. Read the two sentences given here carefully.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Anita is taller than her sister. | (b) Sohan is more active than his brother. |
| Anita is the taller of the two sisters. | Sohan is more active of the two brothers. |

Now, frame meaningful sentences using the given words. The first one has been done for you.

1. Keshav intelligent his brother

Keshav is more intelligent of the two brothers.

2. Athira lazy her sister
3. Mr Saxena generous his neighbour
4. Sharat kind his cousin

H Read the sentence given here as an example and frame similar sentences with the words. The first one has been done for you.

Example : Brahmaputra long Kosi

The Brahmaputra is longer **than** the Kosi.

1. gold costly silver
Gold is costlier than silver.
2. cashew nuts costly peanuts
3. Rashi pretty Ragini
4. Raghav talented Harsh

I Read the sentence given here as an example and frame similar sentences with words given below. The first one has been done for you.

Example : Shashank tall class

Shashank is **the tallest** boy in the class.

1. Mukesh Ambani rich man in India
Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in India.
2. Mount Everest high peak in the world
3. Raman thin boy in the class
4. Abida talented girl in the senior school

J Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct one. The first one has been done for you.

1. Burj Khalifa is **the most tallest** building in the world.
2. Shalini is **more kinder** than Sana.
3. Suresh is **the most efficient** person in the organisation.
4. Rita is **more shorter** than Rashmi.
5. He is **braver** than his brother.

X

K Read the following passage and underline the adjectives.

Mother Teresa was a kind lady who served the sick and poor people. All the generous and humble people who wanted to help, contributed willingly. She could not bear to see a hungry child or an ailing person and was keen to serve them.

There is a big home called the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata where many people are taken care of. The underprivileged and the needy are looked after well.

The people who work there get great satisfaction by doing so.

