



CLASS IX AND X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART I
LESSON – 10
MORE ABOUT ADJECTIVES

NOTES:

An adjective is a word that adds something to the meaning of a Noun or qualifies a Noun.

Example:

(a) The **little** girl is crying.

More about Adjectives:

- 1. An Adjective used attributively is generally placed immediately before the Noun it qualifies.**

Example: Gandhiji was a **great** man.

Notes:

- In poetry, however, the Adjective is sometimes placed after the Noun.
Example: Roses **beautiful** and **glorious** grow in the rose garden **enchanting**.
- When several Adjectives are attached to one Noun, they are sometimes placed after the Noun they qualify.
Example: There was a king **good, wise and generous**.
- When some word or phrase is attached to the Adjective to explain its meaning, the Adjective is generally placed after its Noun.
Example: He was a man **fertile in imagination**.
- Again, there are certain phrases in which the Adjectives come after the Nouns.
Examples: God **almighty**, time **immemorial**, heir **apparent** etc.

- 2. There are some Adjectives which are often used as Nouns.**

Example: The **poor** are not always miserable.

Note:

- The nouns formed from the Adjectives by placing **the** before them are always plural in number.
- Some Adjectives actually become Nouns and they are used in both numbers.
Examples: Indian and Indians; solid and solids etc.
- Some Adjectives in certain phrases are also used as Nouns governed by prepositions.
Examples: at best, in general, in short etc.



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3. Some Nouns are used as Adjectives:

Example: He is a **village** boy.

4. Generally, when two persons or things are compared, ‘than’ is put after the **Adjectives of Comparative Degree**. But in the case of making a selection between two persons or things ‘**the**’ is put before the **Adjectives of Comparative Degree** and ‘**of**’ is used after the Adjectives of Comparative Degree.

Example: This boy is the better of the two.

5. Again, when two qualities of the same person or thing are compared to each other, **the Comparative form of the Adjective is not generally used**.

Example: She is **more wise** than honest.

6. There is some confusion regarding the **Correct Use of Adjectives:**

- Little, a little, the little:** ‘little’ – practically none, ‘a little’ – some, not much, ‘the little’ – the small quantity of amount available. It also applies to **few, a few and the few**. **The difference is ‘little’ is used with the Uncountable Nouns and ‘few’ with the Countable Nouns.**
- First, foremost:** ‘first’ is first in order and ‘foremost’ is leading or most prominent.
- Nearest, next:** ‘nearest’ is nearness in place and ‘next’ refers to position or order.
- Farther, further:** ‘farther’ refers to distance and ‘further’ refers to beyond what exists at the moment.
- Older and elder:** ‘older’ is generally used in comparison and ‘elder’ is used only of members of the same family.
- Many, many a, a great many, much:** ‘many’ refers to numerous in number, ‘many a’ which is singular in form but plural in meaning emphasizes an individual’s experience, ‘a great many’ denotes a large number and ‘much’ indicates a large quantity.

7. Again, it is possible to change the Degree of Comparison of an Adjective in a sentence in different ways **without changing the meaning of the sentence**.

Examples:

He is the **tallest** boy in the class. (Superlative Degree)

He is **taller** than any other boy in the class. (Comparative Degree)

No other boy in the class is as **tall** as he. (Positive Degree)
