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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS IX AND X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART I
LESSON - 9
COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

NOTES

An adjective may be defined as a word which is used with a Noun and which adds something to the meaning of the Noun. It is also said to qualify a Noun.

There are three **Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives**. They are:

a. **The Positive Degree:** The **Positive Degree** of an Adjective simply denotes the mere existence of some quality of a person or thing we speak about. There is no comparison implied.

1. **Example:** Deban is a **tall** boy.

b. **The Comparative Degree:** The **Comparative Degree** of an Adjective denotes a higher degree of the quality when two persons or things are compared.

2. **Example:** Chaoba is **taller** than Deban.

c. **The Superlative Degree:** The **Superlative Degree** of an Adjective indicates the highest degree of a quality when more than two persons or things are compared.

3. **Example:** Lemba is the **tallest** of them all.

1. There are many ways of forming **Degrees of Adjectives** in comparison. An account of the ways of forming the different degrees of comparison is given below.

A. **Adjectives of one syllable form their Comparative and Superlative Degrees by adding er and -est respectively to the Adjectives in Positive Degree.**

Examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Long	longer	longest
Black	blacker	blackest
Dark	darker	darkest
Brave	braver	bravest
Small	smaller	smallest



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- B. Adjectives of more than one syllable in the Positive Degree from the Comparative and the Superlative by putting *more* and *most* before them.**

Examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
Honest	more honest	most honest

However, Adjectives like **cruel, common, feeble, gentle, handsome, narrow, pleasant and stupid** take either **-er** and **-est** or **more** and **most**.

Examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
cruel	crueler more cruel	cruellest most cruel
common	commoner more common	commonest most common

- C. There are some Adjectives which are compared irregularly. Their Comparative and Superlative forms are not formed from the Positive.**

Examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Bad	worse	worst
Far	farther	farthest
Fore	former	foremost
Far	farther further	farthest furthest
Late	later latter	latest last

Note: Some Adjectives have a Superlative ending in **most**. For these Adjectives, the Comparative forms are more or less irregular or no proper Comparative form is in use.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Eastern	—	easternmost
In	inner	inmost innermost
Out	outer utter	outermost uttermost

In case of Adjectives with irregular Comparison, some problems arise while using. We should be careful and select the word with the correct spelling as they have different meanings.

2. **Adjectives without Comparison:** There are some Adjectives which cannot normally have any Comparison. Some of such Adjectives are **round, square, golden, daily, chief, complete, supreme, perfect, unique, dead, eternal** etc. Generally, Adjectives expressing shape or material or time or the highest and lowest degrees of some qualities cannot be compared.

Example: The Taj Mahal is a **unique** monument.



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3. **Some Comparative Adjectives** borrowed from Latin are followed by 'to' and not 'than'. Some of these Adjectives are: **inferior, superior, elder, prior, preferable, senior and junior.**

Example: He is **junior** to me.

4. **Superlative Adjectives** are generally preceded by 'the' and followed by 'of'. But when they are qualified by possessive Adjectives or when they qualify some Nouns in the Vocative Case both 'the' and 'of' are dropped.

Example: **Dearest** son, sit by me.

5. Sometimes, a Superlative Adjective with 'a most' is used to express a very high degree of quality without any idea of Comparison.

Example: It was a **most interesting** scene.

6. **Double Comparatives and Superlatives should be avoided.**

Examples: She is **taller** than her sister. (Not 'more taller')

He is the **wisest** man. (Not 'most wisest')

7. **Adjectives of different degrees cannot be joined by 'and'.**

Example:

She is the most beautiful and talented woman. (**Incorrect**)

She is the most beautiful and most talented woman. (**Correct**)



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