

ADJECTIVE

An adjective is a describing word. It tells us something more about a noun.

Examples: rainy day, fertile land, this girl, those apples, five fingers, many questions, last question, whose house

Adjectives are classified into:

- **Adjectives of quality** describe the noun, that is, they tell us about the quality of the person, place or thing to which we are referring.

Such adjectives can be formed in the following ways:

from nouns—

Examples: gold—golden, power—powerful, dirt—dirty

from verbs—

Examples: use—useful, talk—talkative, please—pleasant

from other adjectives—

Examples: just—justifiable, red—reddish

- **Adjectives of quantity** refer to the quantity (how much) of something. They are not countable. Some such adjectives are some, much, little, enough.

Examples: There is very little sugar in my tea.

I think there is enough time to finish the assignment.

- **Adjectives of number** refer to how many things, places, people, etc there are, or the order of something. Some such adjectives are first, second, ten, one, many.

Examples: She came first in the race.

Several books were stolen from the library.

- Sometimes the same adjective may be treated both as an adjective of quantity and as an adjective of number, that is, it is used to qualify both countable and uncountable nouns.

Examples: I ate some food.

Some children are playing in the park.

You have no idea what this means to me.

There is no money in the purse.

He did not eat any food.

Are there any chalks in the box?

- **Demonstrative adjectives** indicate the noun, that is, they point out the person, place or thing to which we are referring. They answer to the question ‘which’. Some such adjectives are this, that, these, those.

Examples: These are the clothes I was looking for.

Those are my books.

- **Interrogative adjectives** are used before a noun when we want to ask a question about that noun. Some such adjectives are what, which, whose.

Examples: Which books do you want?

Whose coat is this?

Comparative degree of adjectives

Adjectives are used to describe some quality of the person, place, or thing that we are talking about. So sometimes, the extent—or the degree—of that quality needs to be mentioned in comparison with that same quality in another object.

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison:

- **Positive degree:** This is the adjective in its simple form. It is used simply to denote the existence of a particular quality in the person, place or thing that we are talking about.

Example: My suitcase is heavy.

- **Comparative degree:** This is the form of the adjective that describes a higher degree of that particular quality than the positive degree. It is used when two objects are being compared.

Example: My suitcase is heavier than yours.

- **Superlative degree:** This is the form of the adjective that describes the highest degree of that particular quality. It is used when more than two objects are being compared.

Example: My suitcase is the heaviest of all.

- The article ‘the’ is always added before the superlative degree.

Example: Rahul is the tallest boy in the class.

☞ Sometimes the comparative degree is formed by using the word ‘more’ before the positive degree.

Example: Some girls were more beautiful than the others.

☞ Similarly, the superlative degree is sometimes formed by using the word ‘most’ before the positive degree.

Example: The most beautiful girl was declared the winner.

☞ If the words ‘many/much’, ‘more’ or ‘most’ are used before a noun, they are themselves adjectives qualifying that noun.

Examples: more homework, more sandwiches, most marks, many times

☞ If the words ‘more’ and ‘most’ are used before an adjective, they are adverbs but doing the work of an adjective by qualifying that adjective.

Examples: more honest, more energetic, most popular, most delicious

☞ Some adjectives are compared irregularly, that is, their comparative and superlative degrees are not formed from their positive degree.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
many/much	more	most
little	less	least
old	older/elder	oldest/eldest
late	later/latter	latest/last

WORKSHEET 3

I. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate kinds of adjectives indicated in the brackets.

- a) Is there _____ water in the jar? (Quantity)
- b) _____ pen is mine. (Demonstrative)
- c) There are _____ eggs in the bowl. (Number)
- d) Do you have a _____ box? (Quality)
- e) _____ is your name? (Interrogative)

II. Form adjectives from the following words.

- a) sense b) nature c) break d) day
- e) boy f) courage g) long h) live

III. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate degree of comparison—positive, comparative or superlative—of the adjectives provided in the box. Write the degree of comparison in the brackets alongside each sentence.

highest	high	greater	many	greatest
young	mighty	well		

- a) I have a _____ fever. (_____)
- b) Mount Everest is the _____ mountain in the world. (_____)
- c) Shakespeare is _____ than any other English poet. (_____)
- d) The pen is _____ than the sword. (_____)
- e) My sister is the _____ member of our family. (_____)

IV. Give the comparative and the superlative degrees of the following adjectives.

- a) dangerous b) popular c) thin d) difficult
- e) large f) lazy g) colourful h) intelligent
- i) honest j) short k) tall l) big

V. Complete the sentences given below by filling in the blanks using 'many', 'much', 'more' and 'most' as suitable.

- a) That is the _____ delicious cake I have ever eaten.
- b) I have told you _____ times to write your name on your books.
- c) Physical punishment does _____ harm than good.
- d) The candidate who gets the _____ votes enters Parliament.
- e) The child appears _____ energetic after taking the tonic.
- f) Honour is _____ valuable to him than life.
- g) Arjun was the _____ skillful of all the brothers in the art of warfare.
- h) Platinum is _____ expensive than gold.
- i) Platinum is the _____ expensive metal.
- j) This sofa is _____ comfortable than that one.

VI. Fill in the blanks with the correct degree of comparison using the adjectives provided in the brackets.

- a) What is the _____ news? (late)
- b) Amit is the _____ of the two brothers. (older/elder)
- c) Amit is my _____ brother. (older/elder)
- d) Today is the _____ day of submitting the forms. (last)
- e) The patient is in a _____ condition today than she was yesterday. (bad)
- f) The encyclopaedia contains _____ information. (many/much)
- g) There is _____ excitement on the last day of the term. (many/much)
- h) I have two _____ brothers. (elder/older)
- i) I promise to do _____ next time. (good/better)
- j) My brother is _____ both at studies and at games. (good/better)