

Topic no 18: Identify the correct degree

Interchange of degree of comparison:

Rule 1:

Superlative = S + V +(the +Superlative)+other words.

Comparative = S + V + Comparative + than any other + other words.

Positive = No other + O.W + V + So/ as (positive) as + S.

Ex;

Superlative: Rajasthan is the largest state in India.

Comparative: Rajasthan is larger than any other city in India.

Positive: No other city in India is as large as Rajasthan.

Rule 2:

Superlative =S+V+ (One of the + superlative) +o.w

Comparative =S+V+ Comparative + than most other (many other) + o.w

Positive = Very few +O.W+ V (plural) + as (positive) as +S.

Ex;

Superlative: Bombay is one of the richest towns in India.

Comparative: Bombay is richer than most other towns in India.

Positive: Very few towns in India are as rich as Bombay.

Rule3:

Note: when there are only two persons, places or things, we can have only two degree of comparison, positive and comparative. We cannot have the superlative degree.

Comparative: “A” + V + Comparative+ than + “B”.

Positive : “B” + V +not so (positive) as + “A”.

Ex;

Comparative: Ravi is taller than ramu.

Positive: Ramu is not so tall as ravi.

Formation of comparative and superlatives:

Positive -- Comparative -- Superlative

Sweet -- sweeter -- sweetest

Small -- smaller -- smallest

Tall -- taller -- tallest

Bold -- bolder -- boldest

Clever -- cleverer -- cleverest

Kind -- kinder -- kindest

Young -- younger -- youngest

Great -- greater -- greatest

When the Positive ends in e, only r and st are added.

Brave -- braver -- bravest

Fine -- finer -- finest

White -- whiter -- whitest

Large -- larger -- largest

Able -- abler -- ablest

Noble -- nobler -- noblest

Wise -- wiser -- wisest

When the Positive ends in j, preceded by a consonant, the y is changed into i before adding er and est.

Happy -- happier -- happiest

Easy -- easier -- easiest

Heavy -- heavier -- heaviest

Merry -- merrier -- merriest

Wealthy -- wealthier -- wealthiest

When the Positive is a word of one syllable and ends in a single consonant, preceded by a short vowel, this consonant is doubled before adding er and est.

Red -- redder -- reddest

Big -- bigger -- biggest

Hot -- hotter -- hottest

Thin -- thinner -- thinnest

Sad -- sadder -- saddest

Fat -- fatter -- fattest

Adjectives of more than two syllables form the Comparative and Superlative by putting more and most before the Positive.

Positive -- Comparative -- Superlative

Beautiful -- more beautiful -- most beautiful

Difficult -- more difficult -- most difficult

Industrious -- more industrious -- most industrious

Courageous -- more courageous -- most courageous

Two-syllable adjectives ending in fill (e.g. useful), less (e.g. hope less), ing (e.g. boring) and ed (e.g. surprised) and many others (e.g. modern, recent, foolish, famous, certain) take more and most.

The following take either **er and **est** or more and most. :**

Polite simple feeble gentle narrow cruel

Common handsome pleasant stupid

She is politer/more polite than her sister.

He is the politest/most polite of them.

The-Comparative-in er is not used when we compare two qualities in the same person or thing.

If we wish to say that the courage of Rama is greater than the courage of Balu, we say

Rama is braver than Balu.

But if we wish to say that the courage of Rama is greater than his prudence, we must say, Rama is more brave than prudent.

When two objects are compared with each other, the latter term of comparison must exclude the former; as,

Iron is more useful than any other metal.

If we say, Iron is more useful than any metal, that is the same thing as saying 'Iron is more useful than iron' since iron is itself a metal.

Irregular Comparison

Positive	-- Comparative	-- Superlative
Good, well	-- better	-- best
Bad, evil, ill	-- worse	-- worst
Little	-- less, lesser	-- least
Much	-- more	-- most (quantity)
Many	-- more	-- most (number)
Late	-- later, latter	-- latest, last
Old	-- older, elder	-- oldest, eldest
Far	-- farther	-- farthest
(Nigh)	-- (nigher)	-- (nighest), next
(Fore)	-- (former)	-- foremost, first
(Fore)	-- further	-- furthest
(In)	-- inner	-- inmost, innermost
(Up)	-- upper	-- upmost, uppermost
(Out)	-- outer, (utter)	-- utmost, uttermost

Note:- The forms nigh, nigher, nighest, fore and utter are outdated.