

The Adjective



An adjective, as already made clear, qualifies a noun or adds to its meaning.

Kinds of adjectives

Adjectives are divided into following classes :

1. Adjective of Quality : Adjectives of quality show the quality of a person or a thing, as :

- (i) Dalhousie is a beautiful hill station.
- (ii) Sita is an intelligent girl.
- (iii) The clever fox began to flatter the foolish crow.

In these sentences, beautiful, intelligent, clever and foolish are adjectives of quality. They have added to the meaning of the nouns, 'hill station', 'girl', 'fox' and 'crow'. The adjectives of quality give answers to the questions beginning with the words, of what kind ?

2. Adjectives of Quantity : These adjectives give answer to question, beginning with the words. How much ? These adjectives show how much a thing is in quantity.

Examine the following examples :

- (i) Please lend me some money.
- (ii) I take enough water in the day.
- (iii) He does not take any rice.
- (iv) A child needs great care.
- (v) There was not sufficient water in the tank.
- (vi) The whole stock is exhausted.

In the above sentences, 'some', 'enough', 'any', 'great', 'whole' are adjectives of quantity.

3. Numeral Adjectives : These adjectives are answer to the questions beginning with the words, How many ?

Examine the following sentences :

- (i) I still remember my first day at school.
- (ii) There are several roads leading to the station.
- (iii) All must die.
- (iv) I learnt many things from my teacher.
- (v) Our section has five students who do not work hard.

In the above sentences, 'first', 'several', 'all', 'many', five are Numeral Adjectives or Adjectives of number.

4. Distributive Adjectives : These adjectives show each one out of a number of things, as :

- (i) I tried every method.
- (ii) There are fields on the either side of the road.
- (iii) Neither of these two books is mine.

In these sentences, 'every', 'either' and 'neither' are **Distributive Adjectives**.

5. Demonstrative Adjectives : These adjectives give answer to the questions beginning with the word Which ? and show which of the persons or things is meant.

Look at the following sentences :

- (i) This boy is at the bottom of the class.
- (ii) That pen is not yours.
- (iii) These mangoes are not sweet.
- (iv) Those men are villagers.

In these sentences, 'this', 'that' those are **Demonstrative Adjectives**.

6. Interrogative Adjectives : These adjectives are question words, such as, what, which, whose etc. such as :

- (i) What is your father ?
- (ii) Which way leads to your school ?
- (iii) Whose book is this ?

In these sentences 'what', 'which', 'whose' are **Interrogative Adjectives**.

DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Examine the following sentences :

- (a) Kamala is a wise girl.
- (b) Kamala is wiser than Sita.
- (c) Kamala is the wisest girl in the class.

In the first sentence, the adjective 'wise' denotes the quality of Kamala but does not express any comparison. It is said to be in the **Positive Degree**.

In the second sentence, the adjective 'wiser' denotes higher degree of quality and expresses comparison between the two girls, Kamala and Sita. It is said to be in the **Comparative Degree**. It is used when there is comparison of a common quality between two persons.

In the third sentence the adjective 'wisest' expresses the highest degree of quality. It is said to be in the **Superlative Degree**.

It may be noted that this degree is used when more than two persons or things are compared and the article 'the' is used generally before the third degree. Thus adjectives have the following three degrees of comparison.

- (i) Positive (ii) Comparative (iii) Superlative.

The following are the ways of forming the comparative and superlative degrees :

- (i) By adding- "er" and "est" to the positive when the last letter is a consonant, as :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Bold	bolder	boldest
Calm	calmer	calmest
Clean	cleaner	cleanest
Clever	cleverer	cleverest
Dear	dearer	dearest
Deep	deeper	deepest
Fast	faster	fastest
Few	fewer	fewest
Great	greater	greatest
High	higher	highest
Long	longer	longest
Light	lighter	lightest
Quick	quicker	quickest
Short	shorter	shortest
Tall	taller	tallest

(ii) When the positive degree ends in *-e*, only *-r* and *-st* are added, as :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Able	abler	ablest
Brave	braver	bravest
Dense	denser	densest
Fine	finer	finest
Humble	humbler	humblest
Large	larger	largest
Noble	nobler	noblest
Safe	safer	safest
Wise	wiser	wisest

(iii) By changing *-y* into *-i* and adding *-er* and *-est* to the positive, when it ends in *-y* preceded by a consonant, as :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Busy	busier	busiest
Dry	drier	driest
Easy	easier	easiest
Happy	happier	happiest
Healthy	healthier	healthiest
Merry	merrier	merriest
Wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest

(iv) By adding *-er* and *-est* to the positive when it ends in, *-y* preceded by a vowel, as :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Gay	gayer	gayest
Grey	greyer	greyest

(v) If the positive ends in a single consonant preceded by a short vowel, the consonant is double and *-er* and *-est* are added to the positive to form comparative and superlative.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Big	bigger	biggest
Fat	fatter	fattest
Hot	hotter	hottest
Thin	thinner	thinnest

(vi) By prefixing "more" and "most" to the adjective having more than two syllables, as :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Active	more active	most active
Beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
Interesting	more interesting	most interesting
Charming	more charming	most charming
Powerful	more powerful	most powerful



Note : "Less" and "least" are used with positive to lower the degree, as :

Active	Less active	Least active
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(vii) Some adjectives are compared irregularly, as :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Bad, ill, evil	worse	worst
Good, well	better	best
Little	less	least
Fore	former/further	fore most/furthest most
Hind	hinder	hind most
Many, much	more	most
Late	later	latest
	latter	last
Near	nearer	nearest
Old	elder	eldest
	older	oldest
In	inner	inner most/inmost
Far	farther	farthest
Out	outer	outer most
Up	upper	upper most

More about Adjectives and their use

(i) Some comparatives have no positive forms as : inferior, superior, junior, senior. They are followed by 'to' and not 'than', as :

1. This cloth is inferior to that cloth.
2. This pencil is superior to that pencil.
3. Subash is junior to me in service.
4. She is senior to you by one year.

(ii) **Each other, one another** : Each other is used for two and one another is used for more than two, as :

1. The two sisters loved each other dearly.
2. We should help one another at the hour of need.

(iii) **Older, elder** : Older is used for things as well as persons, as :

He is older than I. My pen is older than his.

Elder is used for the members of a family such as :

1. She is my elder sister.
2. You are like an elder brother to me.

(iv) **Little, a little, the little** :

(a) Little means hardly any, as :

The poor man has little food in the house (No food)

(b) A little means 'some', as :

There was a little food in the house. (some)

(c) The little means some but not much, as :

The little food he had in the house was finished in no time.

(v) **Few, a few, the few** : Few means not many, hardly any. It has a negative meaning.

A few means some. It has a positive meaning. The few means not many but all of them.

It has both positive and negative meaning, as :

(a) He is selfish, he has few friends.

(b) I have read a few books.

(c) He has read the few books he has.

(iv) **Later, latter**

Latest, last :

Later and **latest** point out the position in point of time, as :

(a) He comes to school **later** than I.

(b) What is the **latest** news ?

Latter, last refer to the position, as :

(a) He is the **last** man to leave the office.

(b) I could not read the **latter** part of his article.

(vii) **Farther, further** : **Farther** means more distant, **further** means something additional. Sometimes **further** also denotes distance.

Examples :

(a) My house is **farther** from the bus stand than yours.

(b) You must leave without any **further** delay.

(viii) **Some and Any** : **Some** is used in affirmative sentences, as :

(a) I have read **some** books.

(b) I have **some** money with me.

'**Any**' is used with negative and interrogative sentences, as :

(a) He has not read **any** book.

(b) Have you read **any** books ?

Common errors in the use of Adjectives

Incorrect	Correct
1. Mohan is the most wisest boy in the class.	Mohan is the wisest boy in the class.
2. My book is superior than yours.	My book is superior to yours.
3. His pen is inferior to you.	His pen is inferior to yours.
4. Mohan is taller than any body.	Mohan is taller than any body else.
5. Can you solve some of these questions ?	Can you solve any of these questions ?
6. Kullu is a worth seeing place.	Kullu is a place worth seeing.
7. He is stronger than all other men.	He is stronger than any other man.
	<i>Or</i>
8. He is senior than me.	He is the strongest of all men.
9. Ram is junior than Sham.	He is senior to me.
10. My older brother is a doctor.	Ram is junior to Sham.
	My elder brother is a doctor.

EXERCISE-IX

- (a) Fill in the blanks with some, any, each, every, older, elder, each other, one another
1. Mary has read books.
 2. He has not bought pens.
 3. Has John read books ?
 4. There is milk in the jug.
 5. There were fields on side of the road.
 6. body was present except Ramesh.
 7. I take my bath morning.
 8. He is than I.
 9. She is my sister.
 10. Both the friends quarrelled with over trifles.
 11. The friends should not quarrel
 12. I want book to read.
- (b) Fill in the blanks with suitable adjectives :
1. Have you read books ? (any, some)
 2. The injured were taken to the hospital. (next, nearest)
 3. What is the news ? (Last, latest)
 4. Mohan and Sohan are two brothers, the is taller than the
(former, latter)
 5. You must leave without any delay. (further, farther)
 6. Mine is the house in the town. (oldest, eldest)
- (c) Correct the following sentences :
1. Many a men were invited to the function.
 2. Kamal is the wisest than any other boys.
 3. Subash is the tallest of the two brothers.
 4. He did not give his brother some money.
 5. We left the meeting latest of all.
 6. Please give me little of milk for tea.
 7. Open your book at tenth page.
 8. The three first girls have been selected.