

Degrees of Comparison

Jayest weighs 78 kgs.	(heavy)	: Positive
Mahest weighs 89 kgs.	(heavier)	: Comparative
Dinesh weighs 92 kgs.	(heaviest)	Superlative.

Three degrees of comparison : positive, comparative and superlative

Rules of Formation

- **The adjectives ends with an 'e' takes after it 'r' in comparative and 'st' in superlative**

Large	larger	largest
White	whiter	whitest

- ***By adding –er and –est.***

High	Higher	Highest
Wide	Wider	Widest

Tall, Bright, light, soft, strong, thick, clever, kind, wise

- ***By doubling the last consonant and then adding –er and –est where the adjectives ends in consonant and preceded by a vowel.***

Fat	Fatter	Fattest
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Big, thin, hot, wet, slim, sad

- ***By removing the 'y' and adding –ier, --iest.***

Easy	Easier	Easiest
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Funny, heavy, dry, grey, happy, wealthy, angry, pretty, tidy, lovely, angry,

- ***If the base word ends in a silent –e, this –e is dropped before adding –er and –est***

True truer truest

Pure purer purest

- ***Adjectives with more than two syllables form the comparative and superlative by adding ‘more’ and ‘most’ in front of the positive adjective.***

Ca/pa/ble more capable most capable

Beau/ti/ful, im/por/tant; dif/fi/cult; in/tell/i/gent; strong/ly (adverb), e/ffi/cient.

- ***Add more and most to the positive adjective when the two syllable adjectives end in ‘ful’; ‘less’; ‘ing’ and ‘ed’.***

Use/ful more useful most useful

Care/less;

- ***Certain words do not belong to any category. There are exceptions to every rule. Such words are:***

Modern more modern most modern

Foolish; certain

- ***Certain words change totally in the comparative and the superlative.***

Good/well	better	best
Bad/ill	worse	worst
Little	less	least
Old	older	oldest (not for showing relations, for places or things)

Old	elder	eldest (when the people being compared are related)
Far	farther	farthest (distances)
Much/many	more	most

The word **further** and **furthest** are used when we are talking about addition not connected with distance

For example:

I would like to inform you that you are not allowed to enter the premises, further, you may not use the identity cards issued too.

Becoming the heir to the throne was furthest from his mind when suddenly, his father, the king died.

Comparison of Adverbs

The comparatives and superlatives of adverbs are formed like those of adjectives.

1. By adding –er and –est

Hard	harder	hardest
Fast, early, late		

2. By using set expression (irregular forms of comparison)

Well	better	best
Little	less	least
Far	farther	farthest

3. By using more and most

Beautifully	more beautifully	most beautifully
Tightly	more tightly	most tightly
Brightly	more brightly	most brightly

Note : Adverbs ending in -ly usually form their comparatives and superlatives by adding more and most.

Exercise: Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using the suitable forms of comparison of the adverbs given in brackets.

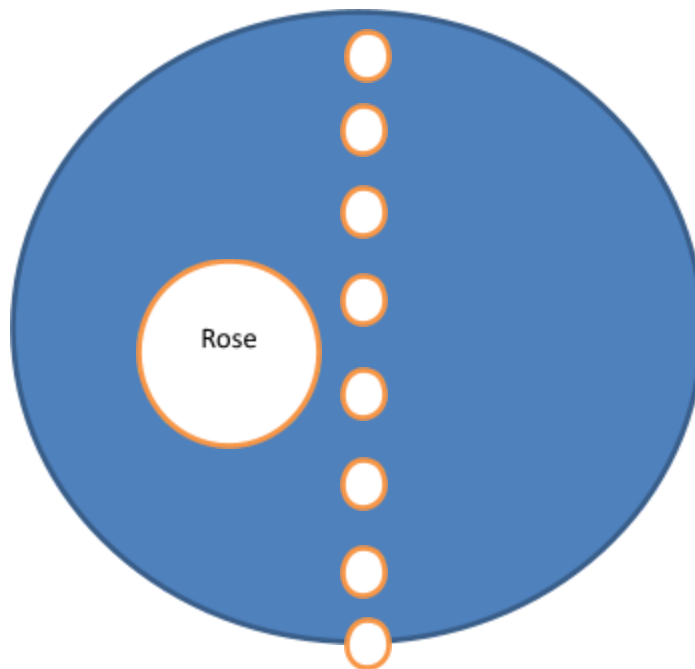
1. This girl spoke _____ than the others. (timildly)
2. Does the Rajdhani Express travel _____ than the Shatabdi? (ast)
3. Hastinapuri is not _____ from here. (far)
4. Who in your group sings the _____? (well)
5. The soldier who fought _____ did not survive to see his army's victory. (bravely)
6. The officer advised his team memberes to talk _____ to the customers. (politely)
7. Try this pen. It writes _____ than yours. (smothbly)
8. The king rode the _____ decorated chariot. (luxuriously)

G 69 (Pal)

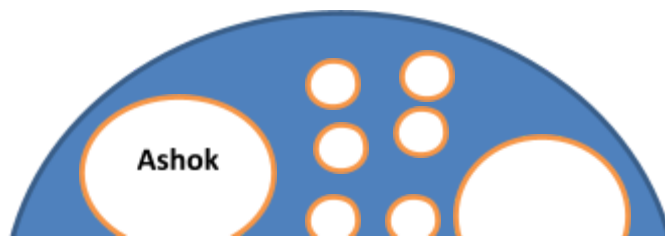
Interchange of the Degrees of Comparison

(a) From Superlative degree

- 1) Superlative : Kalidas was the greatest poet in India.
Comparative : Kalidas was greater than any other poet in India
Positive : No other poet in India was so great as Kalidas.
- 2) Superlative : The rose is the most beautiful flower.
Comparative : The rose is more beautiful than any other flower.
Positive : No other flower is so beautiful as the rose.



- 3) Superlative : Ashok was one of the greatest emperors.
Comparative : Ashok was greater than most other Indian emperors.
Positive : Very few emperors were as great as Ashok.



4) From Comparative Degree

1. Comparative : India is richer in mineral wealth than any other country.
Superlative : India is the richest country in mineral wealth.
Positive : No other country is so rich in mineral wealth as India
2. Comparative : Nehru was greater than most other Indians.
Superlative : Nehru was one of the greatest Indian.
Positive : Very few Indians were as great as Nehru.
3. Comparative : It is easier to preach than to practice.
Positive : It is not so easy to practice as to preach.
4. Comparative : Exercise is no less necessary than food.
Positive : Exercise is at least as necessary as food.
5. Comparative : I love her more than you do.
Positive : You do not love her as much as I do.

Note : In the last three sentences comparisons are between two items or persons---preaching and practicing, exercise and food etc.; therefore we cannot reframe these sentences using the superlative degree of comparison.

(c) From Positive Degree

1. Positive : No other dancer in the college is as good as she.
Comparative : She is better than any other dancer in the college.
Superlative : She is the best dancer in the college.
2. Positive : There are very few creatures as industrious as the ant.
Comparative : The ant is more industrious than most other creatures.
Superlative : The ant is one of the most industrious creatures.
3. Positive : As soon as the bell rang the teacher left the class.
Comparative : No sooner did the bell ring the teacher left the class.
4. Positive : Some other countries in the world are at least as hot as India.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Comparative | : | India is not hotter than some other countries in the world. |
| Superlative | : | India is not the hottest country in the world. |
| 5. Positive | : | Silver is not so precious as gold. |
| Comparative | : | Gold is more precious than silver. |
| 6. Positive | : | He loves all his sons equally. |
| Comparative | : | He does not love any of his sons more than the others. |

Note that superlative degree of comparison cannot be used in the case of sentences 3,5 and 6.

1. Exercise

Write the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives

Young	Neat	Fat	Light
Brave	Happy	Rich	Lazy
Deep	Sticky	Bold	Crazy
Lucky	Poor	Strange	Ugly
Tasty	Hot	Full	Sweet
Warm	Dangerous	Cheerful	Talkative
Busy	Rude	Funny	Sleepy
Tiny	Exercise	Wise	Lengthy
Laborious	burdensome	high	bright
sad	exciting	anxious	curious
lazy	shallow	intelligent	

I. Exercise : Tick the correct form of adjectives in the sentences given below:

- Delhi is more polluted/polluter than other big cities in India.
- He is one of the best atheletes/bestest athletes in our school.
- This is the deliciousest/most delicious dish I have ever tasted.
- My shirt has become tighter/more tight than before.
- No furthest/furtherinformation is available about the criminal.
- She is the capablest/most capable person in this room.
- Aditi looks smarter/smarter than her brother.
- My sister is the younger/youghest ithe family.
- The new table is heavier/more heavy than the old one.
- Which is more slower/.slower—a tortoise or a snail?

Complete these sentences with the correct forms of the adjectives in the brackets.

1. Radha is better (good) in biology than the other students in the class.
2. My cousin's dog, jojo, is the _____ (friendly) in the neighbourhood.
3. Rajasthan is the _____ (hot) state in India.
4. Cycling is a _____ (good) way to stay fit.
5. My mother is the _____ (calm) person in our family.
6. Today's weather is _____ (bad) than what it was yesterday.
7. Who is the _____ (popular) sportsperson in your country?
8. Ours is one of the _____ (noisy) classes in the school.
9. She is the _____ (sweet) person I have ever met.
10. The mangoes are _____ (juicy) and also very _____ (sweet).
11. She is _____ at Maths than most students in the class. (good)
12. Spelling mistakes in English are _____ in words with silent letters than in other words. (frequent)
13. Birbal is said to be the _____ courtier in the Akbar's court. (wise)
14. Rajesh is the _____ student in our class. (studious)
15. Our college is _____ than yours. (far)
16. The edge of a blade is _____ than that of a knife. (sharp)
17. I found English very _____. In fact, it is the _____ of all the subject (difficult)
18. Mr. Khan is the _____ person in the entire office. (busy)
19. Smita is a _____ girl but Reena is _____ than her. (lazy)
20. This wall is too _____ to climb. (high)
21. The pond is not as _____ as it appears. (shallow)
22. The cover of your book is _____ than that of yours. (bright)
23. The sight of the snow-capped mountains of the 'Himalaya' range is _____ to watch. (wonderful)
24. Month of June is _____ than the month of April. (warm)
25. Mrs. Singh is the _____ teacher in our school. (old)
26. A wise enemy is _____ than a foolish friend. (good)
27. Adeeba is a very _____ girl. (intelligent)
28. He is as _____ as his father. (handsome)
29. This dress is _____ than that. (costly)
30. She is the _____ girl in the class. (young)
31. Kolkata is _____ city in India. (big)
32. I can run _____ than you. (fast)

33. Our team scored the _____ points in the competition. (high)

Complete these sentences with comparative or superlative adjectives.

- i) This story is _____ than that.
- ii) I am the _____ member in the family.
- iii) He looks _____ than before.
- iv) Padma is _____ than her brother.
- v) Train rides are a _____ mode of travelling and is _____ than flying.
- vi) She is the _____ of the two sisters.
- vii) He is _____ than everyone else in the class.
- viii) I am learning to play tennis and it does not seem as _____ as I had imagined it would be.
- ix) I am _____ at Maths now than I used to be.

Exercise Answer these questions using the superlative or the comparative forms of the adjectives.

- a) Who is the tallest student in your class?
Sama is the tallest girl in the class.
- b) Which place is nearer to your house, the airport or the railway station?
- c) Which is the coldest month in your city?
- d) Which country is larger in population, India or China?
- e) Which is the longest day in a year?
- f) Which is the smallest bird in the world?
- g) Which is the longest railway platform in India?
- h) Which hill station in India is at a higher altitude, Shimla or Mussoorie?
- i) Which is a larger planet, Jupiter or Mercury?
- j) Which is the largest river in the world.

2. Complete the following table with the correct forms of the adjectives:

Base	Comparative	Superlative
	Spicier	
different		
		largest
	newer	
blue		

		Naughtiest
	less	
happy		
		Worst
	smaller	

3. Complete the following using the suitable form of comparison of the adjectives given in brackets.

- a) Today's breakfast is _____ than yesterday's. (tasty)
- b) Amravati is the _____ restaurant in this area. (good)
- c) Which dog is _____: Fluffy or Tommy? (friendly)
- d) Ranjit finds Hollywood films _____ than Bollywood films. (interesting)
- e) Our trip to the Andamans was the _____ one we've ever had. (enjoyable)
- f) Mr Singh was named the _____ employee of the company. (dedicated)
- g) The silk from China is _____ than that from India. (fine)
- h) In summer the days are _____ and the nights, _____ (long, short)
- i) Which is the _____ planet in the solar system? (large)
- j) Deepak Prasad is the _____ actor on Tv. (handsome)
- k) Julie has the _____ score in the competition. (high)
- l) Laila has the _____ score. (low)
- m) Adeeba is _____ than Sangeeta and Priti in spelling. (good)
- n) My bag is _____ than yours. (big)
- o) This flower is _____ than that one. (beautiful)
- p) Which is the _____ mammal in the world. (large)
- q) The weather has changed from bad to _____. (bad)
- r) This kitten is the _____ of all. (playful)
- s) I have not seen anyone as _____ as her. (helpful)
- t) Please sit down. You will feel _____ then. (comfortable)
- u) Lead is _____ than gold. (heavy)
- v) The view of the hills from the balcony of his apartment is _____ than it is from mine. (lovely)
- w) I found myself in the _____ of situations on my birthday. (funny)
- x) You are _____ than most of your friends. (thin)
- y) He was the _____ person in the group. (smart)
- z) The _____ method to book your ticket is to do it through the internet. (easy)

4. Change the degrees

- 1) No other building in the world is as grand as the Taj Mahal.
- 2) Iron is more useful than any other metal.
- 3) The elder sister is not so clever as the younger one.
- 4) Very few games are as popular as cricket.
- 5) India is the largest democracy in the world.
- 6) Chandigarh is one of the most beautiful cities in India.
- 7) Ankita is as intelligent as her sister.
- 8) It is better to starve than to beg.
- 9) Dehradun is not as cool as Shimla.
- 10) Delhi is one of the busiest cities in India.
- 11) Beans are as nutritious as milk.
- 12) 'The Arabian Nights' is the most popular storybook.
- 13) Australia is smaller than any other continent in the world.
- 14) I have never seen so big a diamond as this.
- 15) Meera works faster than Sheela.
- 16) A sunset on the seashore is one of the loveliest sights of nature.
- 17) Shipra is not so intelligent as Rashi.
- 18) Jamal is more industrious than any other boy in the colony.
- 19) My house is farther from school than yours.
- 20) He is a more faithful friend to me than you are.

Read this conversation

Father : Which coat do you like.

Zubiya : The Blue one.

Father : Why do you like that one?

Zubiya : It's more beautiful and more comfortable.

Father : But it's also the most expensive one. Why don't you buy the green one or maybe the black? Those are cheaper and easier to maintain than the blue one.

Zubiya : All right. I don't like the green. Maybe the black one then.