

# KALPAVRUKSHA MODEL SCHOOL

Subject: English

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## Degree of Comparison

Adjectives are words we use to describe a noun or pronoun. It is a word which qualifies (shows how big, small, great, many, few, etc.) a noun or a pronoun is in a sentence.

Adjectives are usually placed just before the words such as naughty boy, blue umbrella, rotten apple, four coins etc.

### Now read the following sentences:

1. Ram is a tall boy.
  2. Hari is taller than Ram.
  3. Anita is the tallest of the three.
- The Adjective 'tall' is in the **Positive Degree**. Here adjective is in simple form and represents the presence of some quality in the thing or person we speak about. It simply tells us "how Ram is" and there is no other person or thing in this sentence used to compare Ram with. Positive Degree is used when no comparison is made i.e. when we speak about only one person or thing.
  - The Adjective "taller" is said to be in the **Comparative Degree**. It represents a higher degree of the quality than the Positive. It is used to compare the qualities of two persons or things. Here height of Hari and Ram are compared and shows the difference of quality between the two.
  - The Adjective "tallest" is said to be in the **Superlative Degree**. It represents the highest degree of the quality. It is used when more than two objects are compared.

So, there are three Degrees of Comparison.

1. Positive degree.
2. Comparative degree.
3. Superlative degree.

### Formation of Comparative and Superlative

Let's see how the Adjectives form the Comparative and Superlative:

**Rule 1:** The following Adjectives form the Comparative by adding –"er" and Superlative by adding –"est" to the Positive.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
thick	thicker	thickest
tall	taller	tallest
kind	kinder	kindest
young	younger	youngest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
bright	brighter	brightest
bold	bolder	boldest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
cold	colder	coldest
fast	faster	fastest
great	greater	greatest
high	higher	highest
long	longer	longest
small	smaller	smallest
strong	stronger	strongest
young	younger	youngest

**Rule 2:** If the positive ends in “e”, only “r” and “st” are added to form the Comparative and the Superlative.

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Comparative</b>	<b>Superlative</b>
brave	braver	bravest
white	whiter	whitest
large	larger	largest
wise	wiser	wisest
fine	finer	finest
noble	nobler	noblest
nice	nicer	nicest
pale	paler	palest
simple	simpler	simplest

**Rule 3:** If the Positive end in “y” and “y” is preceded by a consonant, the “y” is changed into “i”, before adding “er” and “est”. But if the “y” is preceded by a vowel, then “y” is not changed into “i”.

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Comparative</b>	<b>Superlative</b>
happy	happier	happiest
merry	merrier	merriest
lazy	lazier	laziest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
costly	costlier	costliest
dry	drier	driest
easy	easier	easiest
happy	happier	happiest
mercy	mercier	merciest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest

**Rule 4:** If the Positive Degree has only one syllable and ends in one consonant, and the consonant is preceded by a short vowel, this consonant is doubled before adding “er” and “est”.

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Comparative</b>	<b>Superlative</b>
fat	fatter	fattest
hot	hotter	hottest
big	bigger	biggest
Sad	sadder	saddest
dim	dimmer	dimmest
thin	thinner	thinnest
red	redder	reddest

**Rule 5:** Many Adjectives of two syllables, and all Adjectives of the more than two syllables, take “more” before them to form the Comparative and “most” to form the Superlative.

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Comparative</b>	<b>Superlative</b>
faithful	more faithful	most faithful
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
industrious	more industrious	most industrious
courageous	more courageous	most courageous
active	more active	most active
attractive	more attractive	most attractive
brilliant	more brilliant	most brilliant
careful	more careful	most careful
cunning	more cunning	most cunning
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
famous	more famous	most famous
proper	more proper	most proper
popular	more popular	most popular
splendid	more splendid	most splendid

**Rule 6:** The following Adjectives are compared irregularly:

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Comparative</b>	<b>Superlative</b>
good/well	better	best
little	less	least
much	more	most
old	older	oldest
	elder	eldest
bad	worse	worst
evil/ill	worse	worst
ill	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
well	better	best
late	later	latest
many	more	most
near	nearer	nearest
in	inner	inmost/inner most
out	outer/utter	utmost/utter most

**Note:**

1. “Than” is used after the Comparative Degree. “The” is used before the Superlative Degree.
2. Do not use the Double Comparative and Superlative, such as more better and most loveliest.
3. A few Comparative are followed by “to”, instead of than; as, inferior to, superior to, junior to, senior to.
4. Each, every, either, neither, when used as Adjectives, go with singular Noun. Example- Every boy was punished.