

DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Formation of Degrees of Comparison

Comparative and Superlative degrees are formed:

(i) by adding '-er' and '-est' to the positive degree; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| bold | bolder | boldest |
| short | shorter | shortest |
| deep | deeper | deepest |
| cold | colder | coldest |
| warm | warmer | warmest |
| strong | stronger | strongest |
| poor | poorer | poorest |
| rich | richer | richest |

(ii) by adding only 'r' and 'st' when the positive ends in 'e'; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| large | larger | largest |
| wise | wiser | wisest |
| brave | braver | bravest |
| fine | finer | finest |
| noble | nobler | noblest |
| simple | simpler | simplest |

(iii) by changing 'y' into 'i' and adding 'er' and 'est' if positive ends in 'y' preceded by a consonant; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| noisy | noisier | noisiest |

| | | |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| ugly | uglier | ugliest |
| holy | holier | holiest |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| pretty | prettier | prettiest |
| easy | easier | easiest |

Note: If 'y' of a positive degree is preceded by a vowel than 'y' remains intact and '-er' and 'est' are added to make them Comparative and Superlative; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| grey | grayer | grayest |
| gay | gayer | gayest |

(iv) by doubling the final consonant before adding '-er' and 'est' if the positive ends in one consonant preceded by a vowel; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| fat | fatter | fattest |
| big | bigger | biggest |
| hot | hotter | hottest |
| thin | thinner | thinnest |
| sad | sadder | saddest |
| red | redder | reddest |
| wet | wetter | wettest |

(v) by placing 'more' and 'most' before all adjectives of more than two syllables and many adjectives of two syllables; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| intelligent | more intelligent | most intelligent |

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| beautiful | more beautiful | most beautiful |
| dangerous | more dangerous | most dangerous |
| famous | more famous | most famous |
| popular | more popular | most popular |
| handsome | more handsome | most handsome |
| pleasant | more pleasant | most pleasant |
| expensive | more expensive | most expensive |

(vi) Some adjectives form their Comparative and Superlative in an irregular way; as

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| good | better | best |
| bad | worse | worst |

| | | |
|--------|---------------|--------------|
| little | less | least |
| far | farther | farthest |
| much | more | most |
| many | more | most |
| late | later, latter | latest, last |

(vii) Double Comparative and double Superlative should be avoided; as

Incorrect : This is more safer place.

Correct : This is a safer place.

Incorrect : He is the most busiest man in the office.

Correct : He is the busiest man in the office.

(viii) The words like senior, junior, superior, inferior are always followed by **to instead of than; as**

Incorrect : Mr. Sharma is more inferior than me.

Correct : Mr. Sharma is inferior to me.

Incorrect: I am junior than you.

Correct: I am junior to you.

Incorrect : Mr. Sinha is the most superior of all.

Correct : Mr. Sinha is superior to all.

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks:

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Many | _____ | most |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Happy | more famous | happiest most famous |
| bad | worse | _____ |
| fat | fatter | _____ |
| _____ | gayer | gayest |
| wise | _____ | wisest |
| _____ | thinner | thinnest |
| good | _____ | best |
| far | farther | _____ |
| ugly _____ | uglier more pleasant | _____ most pleasant |
| little much | _____ more | least _____ |

Exercise 2

Choose the right word from within the brackets:

1. He is cleverer me. (than, to)
2. He is senior me by five years. (than, to)
3. Reeta is the most intelligent all the students of the class. (than, of)
4. Choose the (better, best) of the two.
5. Uttar Pradesh is the populated state of India. (more, most)
6. Make noise. (little, less)
7. Shabana is the painter of the two. (good, better)
8. You are junior me. (than, to)
9. Health is than wealth. (better, best)
10. The Taj Mahal is one of the beautiful buildings in the world., (more, most)

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with proper form (Comparative or Superlative) of adjectives.

1. Kavita is the ____ girl in the class. (good)
2. Mt. Everest is the ____ mountain peak in the world. (high)
3. Delhi is ____ than Chennai. (hot)
4. Diamond is the ____ of all gems. (costly)
5. Iron is the ____ of all metals. (heavy)
6. My doll is ____ than yours. (pretty)
7. Sarita is the ____ girl in the class. (popular)
8. Africa is the ____ of all the five continents. (hot)
9. My car is ____ than yours. (expensive)
10. Rachna is ____ than her sister. (tall)
11. This photograph is the ____ of the two. (good)
12. The streets of Karachi are ____ than Mumbai (wide)
13. He is the ____ runner here. (fast)
14. Your accent is ____ than mine. (bad)
15. Lead is ____ than any other metal. (heavy)

