

- (2) We took the nearest shelter possible.
Which shelter did we take?

What is the difference between the two statements?

'Next' denotes the position of the lane in which he lives.

'Nearest' denotes the distance we went for taking shelter.

Note: **Nearest** thus denotes the **space** or **distance**, whereas **next** denotes '**position**'.

(E) Less and Fewer

Read the following examples:

- (1) The less you speak, the more observant you are.

What does the word 'less' refer to? i.e. the quantity of speech.

- (2) No fewer than three months are left for her to deliver the baby.

What does the word 'fewer' refer to? i.e. the months which can be counted or are in numeral form.

Note: **Less** is thus used when we refer to only **quantity**, **fewer** is used when we refer to **quantity in numbers**.

1. Fill in the correct alternative:

- (1) There is a tree next (nearest, next) to my house.
- (2) The latest (latest, last) trend in women's clothing is short kurtas.
- (3) I can't tolerate her any further (further, farther).
- (4) The latter (later, latter) part of the book was very interesting.
- (5) Mr. Sharma's eldest (oldest, eldest) son did very well in the exam.
- (6) Sunita is older (older, elder) than Raman.
- (7) It was later (later, latter) when the king realised his mistake.
- (8) The ice-cream shop is farther (further, farther) from your house than mine.
- (9) He read the next (nearest, next) book in the series.
- (10) The peon in the last (latest, last) row is the culprit.
- (11) This street is the nearest (nearest, next) to my house.
- (12) Sheela is older (older, elder) than his cousin.
- (13) The younger brother's pocket money is less (less, fewer) when compared to that of the elder brother.
- (14) No fewer (less, fewer) than three hundred people were gathered for the ceremony.
- (15) Until further (farther, further) orders, the teachers cannot take any action.
- (16) Fewer (fewer, less) words spoken creates less (fewer, less) trouble.

(17) I have applied less (fewer, less) butter on your bread.

(18) There are fewer (fewer, less) eggs in the refrigerator.

(F) Some and Any

Read the following examples:

(1) There is some water in the bottle.

(2) The bottle does not have any water.

(3) I gave the beggar some money.

(4) I did not give the beggar any money.

Examples (2) & (4) have a 'not' in them. Thus these sentences are called **Negative sentences**, while examples (1) & (3) are **Affirmative sentences**.

Thus, **Some** is used in Affirmative sentences expressing **quantity or degree**.

Any is used in Negative sentences expressing a **degree or quantity**.

Note: 'Any' is used in an affirmative sentence only when the sentence begins with 'if'.

Read the following examples:

(1) Will you have some water? (Offer)

(2) Will you do me some favours? (Request)

(3) Have you bought some clothes for me? (I expect you to)

Note: **Some** is used in questions which are offers / requests or which expect an affirmative answer i.e. 'yes'.

(G) Much and Many

Read the following examples:

(1) Many children were interested in the football match.

(2) Many buildings were destroyed due to the earthquake.

(3) The office staff did not have much work in their hands.

(4) There is not much petrol in the car.

What is the difference between examples (1) & (2) and (3) & (4)?

In examples 1 & 2 there are **Plural Countable Nouns** i.e. children, buildings.

In examples 3 & 4 there are **Uncountable Nouns** i.e. work, petrol.

Thus, (1) **Many** is used with **number or plural countable nouns**.

(2) **Much** is used with **large quantity or uncountable nouns**.

2. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate adjective from the box:

(some, any, much, many)

(1) The editor has got some interesting piece of information.

(2) Many bottles found in the market were duplicate.

(3) Don't they have any sympathy for the poor?

- (4) There is some rice in the sack.
- (5) How much wheat do you want?
- (6) Pick up as many bags as you want for the children.
- (7) She has not got any readable text.

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