

Adjective

~ English Grammar · Competitive Exams ~



An **adjective** is a word that **describes or qualifies** a **noun** or a **pronoun**.
e.g. Ravi is a **tall** boy. · She is **honest**. — 'tall' & 'honest' describe the noun/pronoun.

① Kinds of Adjective

Kind of Adjective	Examples
1. Proper Adjective	Indian, Russian, Chinese, American
2. Possessive Adjective	my, his, her, your, our, their
3. Distributive Adjective	each, every, either, neither
4. Demonstrative Adjective	this, that, these, those, other
5. Quantitative Adjective	much, little, whole, some, enough, all
6. Numeral Adjective	one, two, first, last, many, few, some
7. Interrogative Adjective	whose, what, which
8. Emphasizing Adjective	own, very
9. Exclamatory Adjective	what (What a fall!)

② Degrees of Comparison

Positive Degree → the simple quality. → tall, wise, beautiful.

Comparative Degree → compares **two**. → taller, wiser, more beautiful.

Superlative Degree → compares **more than two** (highest degree). → tallest, wisest, most beautiful.

③ Rules of Comparison ↩

X wrong → ✓ right

i) **Positive degree** is placed between **as ... as** or **so ... as**.

✓ Sita is as tall as Riya.

✓ He is not so quick as his brother.

ii) **Comparative degree** is always followed by **than**.

X This road is longer to that one.

✓ This road is longer than that one.

X She is smarter to me.

✓ She is smarter than me.

iii) **Superlative degree** is preceded by **the**.

X He is best player in the team.

✓ He is the best player in the team.

X This is finest cloth in the shop.

✓ This is the finest cloth in the shop.

iv) When **two qualities of the same person** are compared, use **more** (not '-er').

X He is stronger than clever.

✓ He is more strong than clever.

X She is wiser than kind.

✓ She is more wise than kind.

Degree Table 📋

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
High	higher	highest
Beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
Good / Well	better	best
Bad / Ill	worse	worst
Few	fewer	fewest
Little	less	least
Much / Many	more	most



Memory hook → *Comparative loves than · Superlative loves the.*

④ Use of Degrees – Rules ⚠

i) Adjectives like **unique, perfect, complete, round, chief, universal** have **no comparative/superlative** (no more/most).

X This is the most unique design.

✓ This is a unique design.

X It was a more perfect plan.

✓ It was a perfect plan.

ii) For **two**, use the **comparative** with **the**; for **more than two**, use the **superlative**.

X Of the two brothers, Ravi is the tallest.

✓ Of the two brothers, Ravi is the taller.

X Of the five boys, Ravi is the taller.

✓ Of the five boys, Ravi is the tallest.

iii) After **comparatively / relatively**, use the **positive** degree.

X The room is comparatively colder today.

✓ The room is comparatively cold today.

X The test was relatively easier.

✓ The test was relatively easy.

iv) After **senior, junior, superior, inferior, prior, prefer, preferable**, use **to** (not 'than').

X He is senior than me.

✓ He is senior to me.

X I prefer tea than coffee.

✓ I prefer tea to coffee.

v) When **two adjectives** are joined by **and**, both must be in the **same degree**.

X He is the tallest and stronger boy.

✓ He is the tallest and strongest boy.

X She is more clever and honest than Rita.

✓ She is more clever and more honest than Rita.

vi) Never use a **double comparative** or **double superlative**.

X This is the most easiest question.

✓ This is the easiest question.

X She is more taller than me.

✓ She is taller than me.

vii) After **superlative + of all** do **not** use **other**; after **than + any** you **must** use **other**.

X He is the best of all other players.

✓ He is the best of all players.

X Iron is harder than any metal.

✓ Iron is harder than any other metal.

viii) In a **positive-degree** comparison with **No**, use **other**.

X No boy in the class is as tall as Sam.

✓ No other boy in the class is as tall as Sam.

⑤ Few / Little

Few / A few / The few are used with **countable** nouns:

- **few** = **hardly any** (almost none) → I have few friends here.
- **a few** = **some** → I have a few friends here.
- **the few** = **the small number that** → The few friends I have are loyal.

Little / A little / The little are used with **uncountable** nouns (quantity):

- **little** = **hardly any** → There is little hope left.
- **a little** = **some** → There is a little hope left.
- **the little** = **the small amount that** → The little time we had was wasted.

⑥ Some / Any · Much / Many · Less / Fewer

X wrong → ✓ right

i) Use **some** in **positive** sentences; use **any** in **negative** sentences and questions.

X I do not have some money.

✓ I do not have any money.

✓ I have some money.

ii) **Much** goes with **uncountable** nouns; **Many** goes with **countable** nouns.

X There is many milk in the jug.

✓ There is much milk in the jug.

X There are much chairs here.

✓ There are many chairs here.

iii) **Less** is for **quantity** (uncountable); **Fewer** is for **number** (countable).

X There are less students today.

✓ There are fewer students today.

✓ There is less water in the tank.

Quick Tips!

- ✓ Comparative + **than**; Superlative + **the**.
- ✓ **Unique, perfect, chief** take no more/most; never use a double comparative/superlative.
- ✓ **Senior, junior, superior, prefer** → use **to**, not **than**.
- ✓ **Of all** → no 'other'; **than any** → use 'other'.

✓ **Some** (positive) / **any** (negative); **much/less** → uncountable, **many/fewer** → countable.

Exercise – Spot the Error

Find the part (a)/(b)/(c)/(d) that has the error.

1. Sita is (a) / perhaps the (b) / smartest and brave (c) / girl in the class (d).
2. This plan (a) / is more (b) / preferable (c) / to that (d).
3. This is (a) / the most (b) / happiest day (c) / of my life (d).
4. Out of (a) / these two pens, (b) / I bought the least (c) / costly one (d).
5. Nehru was (a) / greater than (b) / any leader (c) / of his time (d).
6. The doctor said (a) / that the patient (b) / was gradually (c) / becoming weak (d).
7. The two first (a) / chapters of (b) / this book (c) / are boring (d).
8. Not less than (a) / two hundred students (b) / were present (c) / at the event (d).
9. She said (a) / that she preferred (b) / the blue dress (c) / than the red one (d).
10. It is easy (a) / to talk about (b) / a problem than (c) / to solve it (d).
11. Of the two (a) / sisters, the elder (b) / is more (c) / hard-working (d).
12. Mahesh feels (a) / that his bat (b) / is superior (c) / than mine (d).
13. The statue (a) / is the most (b) / unique object (c) / in the museum (d).
14. He is the (a) / tallest of all (b) / other boys (c) / in his school (d).
15. This bag (a) / is cheaper (b) / than (c) / strong (d).
16. I do not (a) / have some (b) / pens to lend (c) / right now (d).
17. I have a (a) / headache and so (b) / cannot eat (c) / something (d).
18. No player (a) / in the team (b) / is as fast (c) / as Arjun (d).
19. All renew (a) / licences may (b) / be collected (c) / from the desk (d).
20. I cannot (a) / ask him for (b) / money without any (c) / vividly reason (d).
21. Our new (a) / ground is big (b) / and cleaner (c) / than theirs (d).
22. The girls sang (a) / few songs (b) / to entertain (c) / the guests (d).
23. The doctor refused (a) / to give any (b) / medicine as there was (c) / a little hope (d).
24. Anita was (a) / overburden (b) / by her (c) / office work (d).

Answer Key ✓

1. (c) → **bravest** ('and' joins adjectives of the same degree).
2. (b) → **preferable** (drop 'more'; 'preferable' has no comparative).
3. (b) → **happiest** (no double superlative).
4. (c) → **less** (for two → comparative).
5. (c) → **any other leader** (than + any → 'other').
6. (d) → **weaker** ('gradually' shows a comparison).
7. (a) → **first two** (ordinal before cardinal).
8. (a) → **No fewer than** (number → fewer).
9. (d) → **to** ('prefer' takes 'to').
10. (a) → **easier** ('than' needs a comparative).
11. (c) → **the more** (of the two → comparative with 'the').
12. (d) → **to** ('superior' takes 'to').
13. (b) → **unique** (no 'most' before 'unique').
14. (c) → **boys** (superlative + of all → drop 'other').
15. (b) → **more cheap** (two qualities of the same thing → 'more').
16. (b) → **any** (negative sentence).
17. (d) → **anything** (negative sentence).
18. (a) → **No other player** (positive comparison with 'No').
19. (a) → **renewed** (an adjective before a noun → V3).
20. (d) → **vivid** (adjective before a noun, not adverb).
21. (b) → **bigger** ('than' needs a comparative).
22. (b) → **a few** (meaning 'some').
23. (d) → **little hope** (negative sense → 'little').
24. (b) → **overburdened** (was/were + V3).

☆ Describe it right – score the mark! ☆

PrepYodha · Handwritten Notes · Adjective