

Adjectives

Adjectives of Quality, Quantity and Number

Introduction to Adjectives

An adjective is **a word that describes a noun or a pronoun.**

For example:

The **quick** cat caught the mouse.

(The word 'quick' is an adjective. It is describing the noun 'cat'. It is telling us of what kind the noun is.)

She is **intelligent**.

(The word 'intelligent' is an adjective. It is describing the pronoun 'she'. It is telling us of what kind the pronoun is.)

Adjectives of Quality

These adjectives **answer the question 'of what kind?'**

Geeta is a **good** girl.

(Ask the question 'what kind of girl?' and you get the answer 'good'.)

Rishabh is **hard working**.

(Ask the question 'Rishabh is of what kind?' and you get the answer 'hard working'.)

Indian tea is famous all over the world.

(Ask the question 'what kind of tea?' and you get the answer 'Indian'.)

He is a **gifted** cricketer.

(Ask the question 'what kind of cricketer?' and you get the answer 'gifted'.)

Adjectives of Quantity

These adjectives **answer the question ‘how much?’**

Our neighbour is asking for **some** sugar.

(Ask the question ‘how much sugar?’ and you get the answer ‘some’.)

I don’t have **much** time to answer that last question.

(Ask the question ‘how much time?’ and you get the answer ‘[not] much’.)

You have given a **sufficient** explanation.

(Ask the question ‘how much explanation?’ and you get the answer ‘sufficient’.)

She has **little** sense of what is going on.

(Ask the question ‘how much sense?’ and you get the answer ‘little’.)

You can take **all** the jewellery.

(Ask the question ‘how much jewellery?’ and you get the answer ‘all’.)

Note: The nouns described by these adjectives are usually uncountable nouns.

Adjectives of Number

These adjectives **answer the question ‘how many?’ or ‘in what order?’**

I have **eleven** fingers.

(Ask the question 'how many fingers?' and you get the answer 'eleven'.)

All the students passed the exam.

(Ask the question 'how many students?' and you get the answer 'all'.)

Each student has to sign the form.

(Ask the question 'how many students?' and you get the answer 'each'.)

Every person in the auditorium was standing.

(Ask the question 'how many persons?' and you get the answer 'Every'.)

Tarun was the **first** to complete the test.

(Ask the question 'in what order was Tarun?' and you get the answer 'the first'.)

Note: The nouns described by these adjectives are usually countable nouns.

Possessive Adjectives

These are **the possessive forms of the personal pronouns** 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she', 'it', 'we' and 'they'. They are **immediately followed by a noun**.

My book is lying on the table.

Your phone is with the teacher.

His house is painted yellow.

Her parents are out of town.

Do you know the child's name? Yes, I do know **its** name.

Our country is making great progress.

Your passports are lying with the judge.

Their performance was liked by all.

These possessive forms are different from possessive pronouns.

The book lying on the table is **mine**.

That phone is **yours**.

That yellow painted house is **his**.

That idea was **hers**.

All that land beyond the lake is **ours**.

These passports are **yours**.

At the end of the day, the award-winning performance was **theirs**.

Remember: *A noun does not immediately follow a possessive pronoun, while a possessive adjective always comes before a noun.*

The Positive, Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives

Adjectives have three forms—the positive, the comparative and the superlative.

Let us look at some adjectives and their different forms.

Where the comparative and superlative are formed by adding ‘-er’ and ‘-est’

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Clever</i>	<i>Cleverer</i>	<i>Cleverest</i>
<p>Utsav is a clever boy.</p> <p>The lawyer is cleverer than the judge.</p> <p>That is the cleverest politician I have ever seen.</p>		
<i>Heavy</i>	<i>Heavier</i>	<i>Heaviest</i>
<p>I am carrying heavy luggage.</p> <p>The weight I am carrying is heavier than the one you are carrying.</p> <p>That blue bag is the heaviest.</p>		
<i>Hot</i>	<i>Hotter</i>	<i>Hottest</i>
<p>Today is a hot day.</p> <p>It was hotter yesterday than it is today.</p> <p>This has been the hottest month of the year.</p>		

Where the comparative and superlative are formed by adding 'more/less' and 'most/least'

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Beautiful</i>	<i>More beautiful</i>	<i>Most beautiful</i>
<p>This picture is beautiful.</p> <p>That picture is more beautiful than this one.</p> <p>These pictures are the most beautiful I have ever seen.</p>		
<i>Difficult</i>	<i>More difficult</i>	<i>Most difficult</i>
<p>The first question is difficult.</p> <p>The fifth question is more difficult than the first.</p> <p>This is the most difficult exam that I have ever sat for.</p>		
<i>Fluent</i>	<i>More fluent</i>	<i>Most fluent</i>
<p>Himesh is very fluent.</p> <p>Gyanesh is more fluent than Himesh.</p> <p>Jignesh is the most fluent of the three.</p>		

Irregular Adjectives

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Good</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Best</i>
<p>I am good.</p> <p>He is better.</p> <p>They are the best.</p>		
<i>Bad</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>Worst</i>
<p>His handwriting is bad.</p> <p>His teacher's handwriting is worse.</p> <p>The principal's handwriting is the worst.</p>		
<i>Little</i>	<i>Less</i>	<i>Least</i>
<p>Dimagi has little intelligence.</p> <p>Khopadi has less intelligence than Dimagi.</p> <p>Bheja has the least intelligence of them all.</p>		
<i>Much</i>	<i>More</i>	<i>Most</i>

Lambu has **much** wealth.

Tingu has **more** wealth **than** Lambu.

Motu has **the most** wealth of the three.

Old

Older

Oldest

I am quite **old**.

This book is **older than** that one.

We are **the oldest** members of this club.

Old

Elder

Eldest

He is very **old**.

I am **elder to** him.

She is **the eldest** in the family.