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Degrees of Comparison – Rules & List

To describe, quantify, modify or identify nouns/pronouns, adjectives are used or reused. Adjectives have their own degrees called degrees of adjectives or degrees of comparison that compare one thing/person to another.

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison

- Positive degree of adjectives
- Comparative degree of adjectives
- Superlative degree of adjectives

Positive: In this degree, we speak about a thing and do not find any comparison.

Comparative: In this degree, we speak about two and compare.

Superlative: In this degree, we speak more than two same things and compare

RULES

Rule 1.

When two items/people are compared, a comparative degree is used by putting 'er' to the adjective word in association with the word 'than'. In some cases 'more' is used.

Rule 2.

'More' is used when you compare qualities of a single thing/person. Even if the first adjective is a single syllable word.

Rule 3.

Do not use double comparative adjectives or superlative adjectives.

Rule 4.

Never use 'more or most' with adjectives that give absolute sense.

Rule 5.

There are a few adjectives that are accompanied by 'to', like, senior, junior, superior, inferior, preferable, prefer, elder. Do not use 'than' with these adjectives.

Rule 6.

When comparing two things, similarity should be there, i.e. similar things should be compared.

Rule 7.

When the comparative degree is used in the superlative degree sense

Rule 8.

When in the same sentence two adjectives in different degrees of comparison are used, both should be complete in themselves.

Rule 9.

To show whether the difference between the compared thing/person is small or big, we use quantifiers for the comparative degree of an adjective such as (A bit, a little, a lot, far, much, a great deal, significantly, etc).

CASE 1

If we find one-syllable positive adjective, we make it comparative degree with adding "Er" and superlative degree with "Est"

CASE 2

If we find last letter consonant of one syllable positive adjective and a vowel before that consonant, we make it comparative degree with double consonant and adding "Er" and superlative degree with "Est"

CASE 3

If we find last letter consonant of one syllable positive adjective and more than a vowel before that consonant, we make it comparative degree with adding "Er" and superlative degree with "Est"

CASE 4

If we find last letter "Y" of one syllable positive adjective and a consonant before that letter "Y", we make it comparative degree with double consonant and adding "Ier" in place of "Y" and superlative degree with "Est"

CASE 5

If we find last letter consonant of one syllable positive adjective and a vowel before that consonant, we make it comparative degree with double consonant and adding "er" and superlative degree with "Est"

CASE 6

If we find last letter "E" of one syllable positive adjective, we make it comparative degree with adding "R" and superlative degree with "St"

CASE 7

If we find more than one syllable positive adjective we make it comparative degree with "More", "Less" and superlative degree with "Most", "Lest".

STRUCTURE

Positive Degree:

- Sub1 + be verb + as + positive adj + as + sub2.
- Sub1 + be verb + not + so + positive adj + as Sub2.
- No other + Noun (singular) + in/of + (other word) + be verb + so/as positive adj + as + Sub.
- Very few + noun (Plural) + extra word + be verb + as + positive adj + as Subj.
- Some other (Plural) extra word + plural noun + be verb + as positive adjective as sub.
- As soon as + Sub + verb + other, sub + verb-2 + o.

Comparative degree:

- Sub + be verb + comparative adj + than + sub.
- Sub + be verb + not comparative adj + than + sub.
- Sub + be verb + comparative adj + than + any other + Noun (Singular).
- Sub + be verb + comparative adj + than + many/most other + Noun (plural).
- Sub + be verb + not + comparative adj + some other + Noun (Plural) + Extra word.
- No sooner had + sub + V-3 + than + sub + verb + obj.

Superlative degree

- Sub + be verb + one of the + sup.adj + noun (Plural) + extra word.
- Sub + be verb + the + superlative adj + noun (singular) + extra word.
- Sub + be verb + the + superlative adj + of all + noun (Plural).

LIST OF DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
angry	angrier	angriest
able	abler	ablest
bad	worse	worst
bitter	bitterer	bitterest
big	bigger	biggest
bland	blander	blandest
black	blacker	blackest
bloody	bloodier	bloodiest
bold	bolder	boldest
blue	bluer	bluest
bossy	bossier	bossiest
brief	briefer	briefest
brave	braver	bravest
bright	brighter	brightest
busy	busier	busiest
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
broad	broader	broadest
calm	calmer	calmest
chewy	chewier	chewiest
cheap	cheaper	cheapest
chubby	chubbier	chubbiest
clean	cleaner	cleanest
classy	classier	classiest
clear	clearer	clearest
close	closer	closest
cloudy	cloudier	cloudiest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
clumsy	clumsier	clumsiest
cold	colder	coldest
coarse	coarser	coarsest
crazy	crazier	craziest
cool	cooler	coolest
creamy	creamier	creamiest
crispy	crispier	crispiest
creepy	creepier	creepiest
cruel	crueller	cruellest
curly	curlier	curliest
crunchy	crunchier	crunchiest
cute	cuter	cutest
curvy	curvier	curviest
damp	dampier	dampiest
deadly	deadlier	deadliest

dark	darker	darkest
deep	deeper	deepest
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest
dry	drier	driest
dense	denser	densest
dull	duller	dullest
dusty	dustier	dustiest
dumb	dumber	dumbest
easy	easier	easiest
early	earlier	earliest
faint	fainter	faintest
fancy	fancier	fanciest
fair	fairer	fairest
far	further/farther	furthest/farthest
fat	fatter	fattest
fast	faster	fastest
few	fewer	fewest
filthy	filthier	filthiest
fine	finer	finest
fierce	fiercer	fiercest
flaky	flakier	flakiest
firm	firmer	firmest
fresh	fresher	freshest
flat	flatter	flattest
friendly	friendlier	friendliest
funny	funnier	funniest
fit	fitter	fittest
full	fuller	fullest
good	better	best
gentle	gentler	gentlest
grand	grander	grandest
gloomy	gloomier	gloomiest
greasy	greasier	greasiest
grave	graver	gravest
greedy	greedier	greediest
great	greater	greatest
guilty	guilter	guiltiest
gross	grosser	grossest
happy	happier	happiest
hairy	hairier	hairiest
hard	harder	hardest
handy	handier	handiest
healthy	healthier	healthiest
harsh	harsher	harshest
heavy	heavier	heaviest

hip	hipper	hippest
hungry	hungrier	hungriest
high	higher	highest
humble	humbler	humblest
hot	hotter	hottest
handsome	more handsome	most handsome
itchy	itchier	itchiest
icy	icier	iciest
juicy	juicier	juiciest
kind	kinder	kindest
lazy	lazier	laziest
large	larger	largest
likely	likelier	likeliest
late	later	latest
light	lighter	lightest
lively	livelier	liveliest
long	longer	longest
little (amount)	less	least
little (size)	littler	littlest
lovely	lovelier	loveliest
lonely	lonlier	loneliest
low	lower	lowest
loud	louder	loudest
many	more	most
mean	meaner	meanest
mad	madder	maddest
messy	messier	messiest
moist	moister	moistest
mild	milder	mildest
naughty	naughtier	naughtiest
narrow	narrower	narrowest
near	nearer	nearest
nasty	nastier	nastiest
new	newer	newest
neat	neater	neatest
nice	nicer	nicest
noisy	noisier	noisiest
needy	needier	neediest
oily	oilier	oiliest
odd	odder	oddest
old	older/elder	oldest/eldest
popular	more popular	most popular
polite	politer	politest
plain	plainer	plainest
poor	poorer	poorest

proud	prouder	proudest
pure	purer	purest
pretty	prettier	prettiest
quiet	quieter	quietest
quick	quicker	quickest
raw	rawer	rawest
rare	rarer	rarest
ripe	riper	ripest
rich	richer	richest
rough	rougher	roughest
roomy	roomier	roomiest
risky	riskier	riskiest
rusty	rustier	rustiest
rude	ruder	rudest
renowned	more renowned	most renowned
safe	safer	safest
sad	sadder	saddest
sane	saner	sanest
salty	saltier	saltiest
shallow	shallower	shallowest
scary	scarier	scariest
sharp	sharper	sharpest
short	shorter	shortest
shiny	shinier	shiniest
silly	sillier	silliest
shy	shyer	shyest
sincere	sincerer	sincerest
simple	simpler	simplest
sleepy	sleepier	sleepiest
skinny	skinnier	skinniest
slow	slower	slowest
slim	slimmer	slimmest
small	smaller	smallest
smart	smarter	smartest
smelly	smellier	smelliest
smooth	smoother	smoothest
smoky	smokier	smokiest
soon	sooner	soonest
soft	softer	softest
sorry	sorrier	sorriest
sore	sorer	sorest
sour	sourer	sourest
steep	steeper	steepest
spicy	spicier	spiciest
stingy	stingier	stingiest

strict	stricter	strictest
strange	stranger	strangest
sunny	sunnier	sunniest
strong	stronger	strongest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
sweaty	sweatier	sweatiest
tall	taller	tallest
tasty	tastier	tastiest
thick	thicker	thickest
tan	tanner	tannest
thin	thinner	thinnest
tiny	tinier	tiniest
thirsty	thirstier	thirstiest
true	truer	truest
tough	tougher	toughest
ugly	uglier	ugliest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest
warm	warmer	warmest
weird	weirder	weirdest
weak	weaker	weakest
wet	wetter	wettest
wild	wilder	wildest
wide	wider	widest
worldly	worldlier	worldliest
wise	wiser	wisest
worthy	worthier	worthiest
windy	windier	windiest
young	younger	youngest

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