

Adjectives



This is a **small** village. It looks **peaceful**. There are some **lovely old** houses.

- ◆ **Adjectives describe nouns** (a **big** car). They have the same form in the singular and plural. e.g. a **small house** — **small houses**
- ◆ **Adjectives go before nouns.** e.g. a **beautiful girl**. They can also be used alone after the verb **to be** and after verbs such as **look, smell, sound, feel, taste, etc.** e.g. **Jack is tall. You look sad.**
- ◆ There are two kinds of adjectives: **opinion adjectives** (**beautiful, good, etc.**), which show what a person thinks of somebody or something, and **fact adjectives** (**long, strong, young, etc.**), which give us factual information about age, size, colour, etc.

ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

- ◆ **Opinion adjectives go before fact adjectives.** e.g. a **beautiful silk** dress
- ◆ **When there are two or more fact adjectives in a sentence, they usually go in the following order:**

Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material
a small	old	square	blue	Thai	silk scarf

- ◆ We do not usually have a long list of adjectives before a single noun. A noun is usually described by one, two or three adjectives at the most. e.g. an **expensive Persian silk** carpet

1

Fill in the gaps with the correct adjective from the list.

lovely, fresh, quiet, cosy, bright, excellent, tall, comfortable

The cottage was beautiful. It had a 1) ...*cosy*... atmosphere. The rooms were small but 2) There was a 3) fire burning in the fireplace, and the smell of 4) roses filled each room. The old furniture was in 5) condition. The garden was 6) There were 7) trees all round the garden and colourful flowers near the cottage. It was very 8) and peaceful. I didn't want to leave.

2

Fill in the correct adjective.

oval, careful, thick, adventurous, long, generous

- 1 Explorers are brave and*adventurous*.....
- 2 Rugby balls aren't round, they're
- 3 Uncle Sam is a very man. He always brings us gifts when he visits us.
- 4 This book is very It doesn't fit in my bag.
- 5 This dress is too I need to shorten it.
- 6 Ricky is a driver.

3

You have inherited the following things from your grandmother. Describe them by putting the adjectives in the right order.

e.g. a **small wooden** table



1 a **wooden / small** table



2 some **round / china / beautiful** plates



3 a **crystal / Venetian / blue** vase



4 a(n) **gold / expensive** ring



5 two **silver / old** candlesticks



6 a(n) **antique / wooden / lovely** radio

Adjectives-Adverbs-Comparisons

Adverbs



Farmers wake up **early** in the morning.
They work **hard** all day.
They go home **late** in the evening.

- ◆ An **adverb** can be one word (carefully) or a phrase (in the park). Adverbs show manner (how), place (where), time (when), frequency (how often), etc.

e.g. He drives **carefully**.

(How does he drive? Carefully. - adverb of manner)

Your coat is **here**.

(Where is it? Here. - adverb of place)

He left for Italy **yesterday**.

(When did he leave? Yesterday. - adverb of time)

He **usually** eats out.

(How often does he eat out? Usually. - adverb of frequency)

- ◆ Adverbs usually go after verbs. e.g. He walks **slowly**.

- ◆ Adverbs of frequency go after auxiliary verbs and the verb **to be**, but before main verbs.

e.g. He **is always** on time for appointments.

He **has never visited** Paris.

He **always comes** to work on time.

Formation of adverbs

- ◆ We usually form an adverb by adding **-ly** to the adjective.

e.g. dangerous - **dangerously**

- ◆ Adjectives ending in **-le** drop the **-e** and take **-y**.

e.g. gentle - **gently**

- ◆ Adjectives ending in **consonant + y** drop the **-y** and take **-ily**.

e.g. easy - **easily**

- ◆ Adjectives ending in **-l** take **-ly**.

e.g. wonderful - **wonderfully**

- ◆ Some adverbs are not formed according to the above rules. They have either a totally different form or the same form as the adjective.

Adjective		Adverb
good	→	well
fast	→	fast
hard	→	hard
early	→	early
late	→	late

ORDER OF ADVERBS

- ◆ When there are two or more adverbs in the same sentence, they usually come in the following order:

manner (how)	—	place (where)	—	time (when)
↓		↓		↓
He was studying hard		in his room		last night .

- ◆ If there is a verb of movement (go, come, leave, etc.) in the sentence, then the adverbs come in the following order:

place (where)	—	manner (how)	—	time (when)
↓		↓		↓
She came home		by bus		yesterday .

4

Write the adverbs of the adjectives in the list in the correct box.

bad, quiet, impossible, easy, noisy, careful, horrible, lazy, simple

-ly	le → ly	consonant + y → ily

5

Put the words from the list below into the correct column.

good, nicely, well, monthly, sadly, cheap, tall, strongly, fast, cold, early, softly, wide, carefully, late, pretty, loudly, hard

Adjective	Adverb	Adjective and Adverb

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Adjectives-Adverbs-Comparisons

6 Put the adverbs from the list below into the correct box.

sadly, quickly, here, last month, always, never, there, slowly, somewhere, tomorrow, cheerfully, often, now, last week, sometimes, anywhere

how (adverbs of manner)	sadly
where (adverbs of place)	
when (adverbs of time)	
how often (adverbs of frequency)	

7 Choose an appropriate adjective from the list, turn it into an adverb and put it in the correct sentence.

careless, fluent, proud, polite, happy, angry, heavy, serious, quick, careful

- 1 The children were playinghappily.....
- 2 The man drove and crashed his car.
- 3 The teacher shouted because the students were making too much noise.
- 4 Jonathan speaks English
- 5 It was raining yesterday, so we stayed indoors.
- 6 The shop assistant placed the crystal vase on the shelf.
- 7 I asked the man to help me cross the road.
- 8 Harry ran to catch the bus, but it had already left.
- 9 The actor who won the Academy Award was smiling on the stage.
- 10 He looked at me and told me never to lie to him again.

8 Underline the correct word.

- 1 A: I'm going to the shops now.
B: Make sure you carry the eggs careful/carefully. Don't break them.
- 2 A: I'm going to Alison's house for dinner tonight.
B: You'll enjoy it. Alison is a very good/well cook.
- 3 A: Have you finished that puzzle already?
B: Yes, it was really easy/easily.
- 4 A: Mr Jones shouted angry/angrily today.
B: I know. He was in a very bad/badly mood all day.
- 5 A: Your mother is always cheerful/cheerfully, isn't she?
B: Yes, she is always in a well/good mood.

9 Underline the correct word.

I organised a surprise party for my friend, Edith, last week-end. All the guests arrived early and waited 1) quiet/quietly until Edith got there. When she walked through the door, we all cheered 2) loud/loudly. We went into the garden because it was a very 3) warm/warmly day. The guests all gave Edith 4) nice/nicely presents and Edith thanked them 5) sincere/sincerely. We danced 6) happily/happy to the music and had a 7) wonderful/wonderfully time. The party was 8) successful/successfully.

10 Put the words in the correct order.

- 1 always / wake up / I / early
I always wake up early.
- 2 by plane / we / to Spain / went
.....
- 3 to work / she / ran / quickly
.....
- 4 every afternoon / sleeps / my dog / in the garden / peacefully
.....
- 5 they / in the kitchen / quietly / were talking
.....
- 6 all morning / happily / he / played / in his room
.....
- 7 they / the street / carefully / crossed
.....
- 8 yesterday / by taxi / I / went / to work
.....
- 9 in winter / they / never / go / to the beach
.....
- 10 sometimes / takes / he / to the park / his children
.....

Comparisons



SIZE: 6 metres

COST: £3,000

The speedboat is **big**.
It is also **expensive**.



SIZE: 35 metres

COST: £4,000,000

The yacht is **bigger than** the speedboat. It is also **more expensive**.



SIZE: 80 metres

COST: £30,000,000

The cruise ship is **the biggest** and **the most expensive** of all.

- ◆ Adjectives have got three forms: **positive**, **comparative** and **superlative**.
- ◆ We use the **comparative form + than** to compare two people or things.
e.g. Bob is **shorter than** Paul. My car is **more expensive than** yours.
- ◆ We use the **+ superlative form + of/in** to compare one person or thing with more than one person or thing in the same group. e.g. Rick is **the shortest of** all. We use **in** when we talk about places. e.g. Stella is **the most beautiful woman in** the world. (NOT: ~~of~~ the world)

Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives

- ◆ One-syllable and two-syllable adjectives form the comparative by adding **-er**, and the superlative by adding **-est**. e.g. tall - taller - tallest
- ◆ Adjectives of three or more syllables form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **most**.
e.g. intelligent - **more** intelligent - **most** intelligent
- ◆ Some two-syllable adjectives, such as clever, stupid, narrow, gentle, friendly, etc., form the comparative and superlative either with **-er/-est** or with **more/most**.
e.g. narrow - **narrower** - **narrowest**/narrow - **more** narrow - **most** narrow

Spelling Rules

- ◆ One-syllable adjectives ending in **-e** take **-r** in the comparative and **-st** in the superlative form.
simple - simpler - simplest
- ◆ Two-syllable adjectives ending in **-y** turn the **-y** into **-i** and then take **-er/-est**.
easy - easier - easiest
- ◆ Adjectives ending in a stressed vowel between two consonants double the final consonant and then take **-er/-est**.
fat - fatter - fattest but cold - colder - coldest

11

Write the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives.

1	long	...longer...	...longest...
2	expensive	.....	.....
3	strong	.....	.....
4	difficult	.....	.....
5	intelligent	.....	.....
6	close	.....	.....
7	popular	.....	.....
8	safe	.....	.....
9	important	.....	.....
10	loud	.....	.....
11	weak	.....	.....
12	tasty	.....	.....
13	comfortable	.....	.....
14	delicious	.....	.....

Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adverbs

Adverbs form their comparatives and superlatives in the same way as adjectives.

- ◆ Adverbs which have the same form as the adjective take **-er** in the comparative and **-est** in the superlative.
e.g. *hard* - *harder* - *hardest*, *early* - *earlier* - *earliest*

- ◆ Adverbs formed by adding **-ly** to the adjective take **more** in the comparative and **most** in the superlative.
e.g. *carefully* - *more carefully* - *most carefully*

12 Write the comparative and superlative forms of the following adverbs.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 responsibly | <i>more responsibly</i> | <i>most responsibly</i> |
| 2 hard | ..... | ..... |
| 3 fast | ..... | ..... |
| 4 noisily | ..... | ..... |
| 5 early | ..... | ..... |
| 6 satisfactorily | ..... | ..... |

Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good/well	better	best
bad/badly	worse	worst
much/many/ a lot of	more	most
little	less	least
far	further/farther	furthest/farthest

13 Use the prompts below to make sentences, as in the example.

- an ostrich / an owl (big)
An ostrich is bigger than an owl.
- gold / silver (expensive)
.....
- Canada / Brazil (cold)
.....
- feathers / stones (light)
.....
- a car / a bicycle (fast)
.....

14

Use the prompts below to make sentences, as in the example.

- Have you read Sheldon's new novel? It's exciting, isn't it?
Yes, it's the most exciting novel I've ever read.
- Have you seen the new Harvey film? It's frightening, isn't it?
- Have you met Mary's cousin? She's beautiful, isn't she?
- Have you tasted my mum's cheesecake? It's delicious, isn't it?
- Have you heard Michael's new record? It's bad, isn't it?

15

Fill in the gaps with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives/adverbs in brackets.

- A: Excuse me, is there a 1) *...faster...* (fast) way to get to Clovelly?
- B: If you take that road, which is 2) (narrow) than the others, it's only 15 minutes' walk. That's the 3) (quick) way.
- A: Ah, thanks. We've been walking for 35 minutes and we thought we would get there 4) (soon). We can't even see Clovelly yet.
- B: It's hidden by the trees, they're 5) (tall) than the houses. You'll like Clovelly. It's one of the 6) (beautiful) villages in north Devon.
- A: That's what we've heard. It has some of the 7) (pretty) houses, hasn't it?
- B: Yes, and the 8) (tasty) fish you've ever eaten!
- A: Thank you very much for your help. Bye.

16

Fill in the gaps with the comparative or superlative form of the adverbs in brackets, adding any necessary words.

- Al swims *...faster than...* you do. (fast)
- My sister drives us all. (carelessly)
- I left the party you did. (late)
- Catherine dances all. (beautifully)
- The leading actress speaks all. (clearly)
- My uncle gives to the poor my father does. (generously)
- Jill Thomas works all. (hard)
- My best friend plays chess I do. (well)

Adjectives-Adverbs-Comparisons

17

Fill in the gaps with the **comparative** or **superlative** form of the adjectives in brackets, adding any necessary words. Then, answer the questions.

- Which is ...*the coldest*... (cold) planet in our solar system? *Pluto*.
- Is the Gobi desert (large) the Sahara desert?
- Which is (heavy) animal in the world?
- Which is (long) wall in the world?
- Is Mount Everest (high) Kilimanjaro?
- Which is (small) continent in the world?
- Does the cheetah run (fast) the lion?
- Does the blue whale make a (loud) sound the polar bear?
- Which are (tall) buildings in the world?
- Has a falcon got (good) eyesight a human?

Very - Much

very + positive form of an adjective/adverb
e.g. It's **very hot** in here.

much + comparative form of an adjective/adverb
e.g. Today is **much hotter** than yesterday.

18

Fill in the gaps with **very** or **much**.

- A: This book isn't ...*very*... interesting.
B: Try reading this one.
- A: That's a beautiful car, isn't it?
B: Yes, but it's more expensive than anything I can afford.
- A: This jewellery is nice.
B: Yes, but the necklace is long, isn't it?
- A: I hate geometry, don't you?
B: Actually, I find geometry more interesting than algebra.
- A: Peter thinks Laura is a polite girl.
B: I know. Barry does, too.
- A: I want to lose weight, so I've taken up jogging.
B: That's good, but did you know that aerobics is a more energetic form of exercise than jogging?

19

Put the adjectives in brackets into the **comparative** or **superlative** form adding any necessary words.

- A: What do you think of this dress, Julia?
B: It's lovely. It's **1** ...*the nicest*... (nice) of all you've tried on yet.
A: Yes, but I prefer short dresses.
B: Well, it's true that this dress is **2** (long) the blue one, but it's also **3** (elegant).
A: Yes, but it's **4** (expensive) dress we've seen so far.
B: I know. The blue one is much **5** (cheap), but it doesn't look as good as the black one.
A: Oh! I can't decide. What time is it?
B: It's only 6 o'clock. We've got plenty of time.
A: Really! I thought it was **6** (late) that.
B: Why don't we go to another shop?
A: No, I've decided. I like the black dress **7** (good). It's **8** (expensive), but it doesn't matter.
B: OK. Let's go and pay for it.

20

Fill in the gaps with the **comparative** or **superlative** form of the adjectives in brackets, adding *the* where necessary.



My sister went on a school trip to a large outdoor swimming pool last week. Early in the morning, all the children got onto a bus with their teacher. It was **1** ...*the smallest*... (small) bus my sister had ever seen, so it was **2** (uncomfortable) journey she'd ever been on. After two hours, they reached their destination. It was **3** (hot) day of the year. When they saw the pool, the children couldn't believe their eyes. It was **4** (big) swimming-pool they had ever seen. There was even a huge water-slide! My sister said it was much **5** (enjoyable) than the rollercoaster at the funfair. Everyone had a fantastic time. When their teacher asked if they had enjoyed the trip, they all agreed that it was much **6** (good) than having lessons at school!

Types of Comparisons



The motorbike is **as fast as** the car.
 The motorbike **isn't as/so comfortable as** the car.
 The bicycle is **less expensive than** the motorbike.
 The bicycle is **the least expensive of** all.

- ◆ We use **as + adjective (positive form) + as** to show that two persons or things are similar in some way. In a negative sentence, we use **not as/so ... as**.

e.g. Peter is **as tall as** Tom.
 Tom is **not as/so strong as** Peter.

- ◆ We use **less + adjective (positive form) + than** for two persons or things.

e.g. This book is **less interesting than** that one.

- ◆ We use **the least + adjective (positive form) + of/in** for more than two persons or things.

e.g. The film we saw last night was **the least interesting of** all I've seen this month.

21

Complete the sentences to make correct statements about the three means of transport above, as in the example.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 The car is faster than the bicycle. | 9 ... is the most dangerous of all. |
| 2 ... is slower than ... | 10 ... is the cheapest of all. |
| 3 ... is the slowest of all. | 11 ... is not as convenient as ... |
| 4 ... is more expensive than ... | 12 ... is more comfortable than ... |
| 5 ... is as fast as ... | 13 ... is the safest of all. |
| 6 ... is not as cheap as ... | 14 ... is the most expensive of all. |
| 7 ... is not as safe as ... | |
| 8 ... is more dangerous than ... | |

IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- Paul is stronger than Alan.
as Alan is **not as strong as** Paul.
- I have never read such an exciting book.
the It's **the most exciting book** I have ever read.
- The blue car is more expensive than the black one.
less The black car is **less expensive than** the blue one.
- This book has got 160 pages. That book has got 160 pages, too.
thick This book is **as thick as** that one.

22

Complete each sentence with two to five words including the word in bold.

- Lisa is prettier than Clare.
as Clare is **...not as pretty as...** Lisa.
- It's the biggest house I've ever seen.
such I **.....** a big house.
- I've never heard such a beautiful song.
the It's **.....** I have ever heard.
- Meat isn't as healthy as vegetables.
than Vegetables are **.....** meat.
- Betty is 70 years old. Graham is 70 years old, too.
old Betty is **.....** Graham.
- My car is old. Your car is new.
than Your car **.....** mine.
- Samantha speaks French better than Josephine.
well Josephine doesn't **.....** Samantha does.
- I have never worn such a warm sweater.
the It's **.....** I have ever worn.
- This necklace costs £200. That necklace costs £200, too.
expensive This necklace **.....** that one.
- Peter is more handsome than Roger.
less Roger is **.....** Peter.