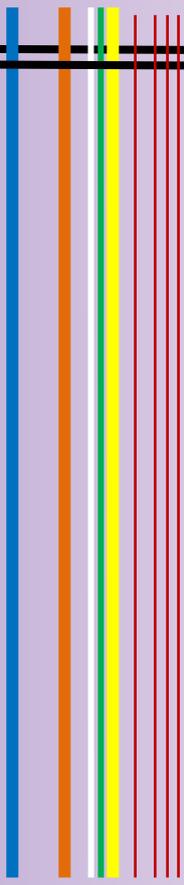
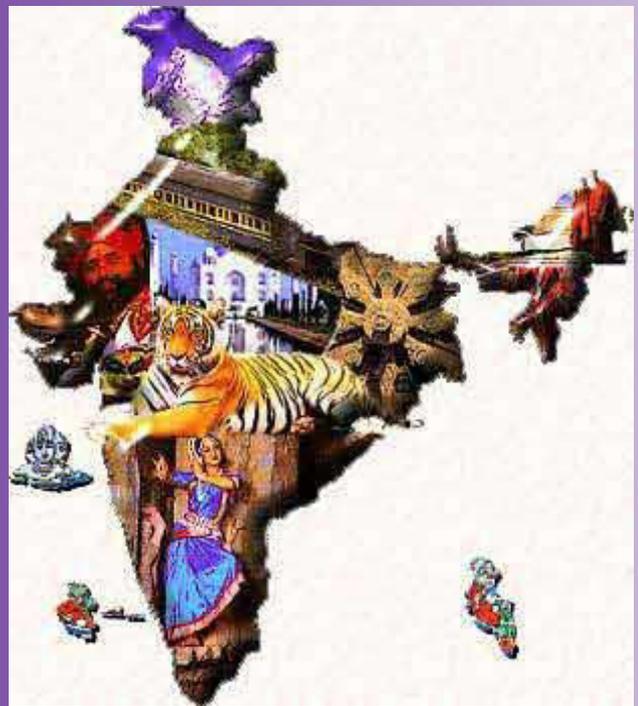


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Degrees of Comparison

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Degrees of Comparison

Comparison can be made using the three forms of the adjective.

Adjective is a word and it qualifies a noun. It gives more information about the noun.

eg. The lion is a **strong** animal. Rita is a **beautiful** girl.

Adjectives are of three degrees. (1) Positive (2) Comparative (3) Superlative

eg. David is a **rich** man.

eg. Cancel is **more dreadful** than cholera.

eg. Mount Everest is **the highest** peak in the world.

Study the following models.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Very few boys in the class are astall as John.	John is taller than any other boys in the class.	John is the tallest boy in the class.
	John is taller than most other boys in the class.	John is one of the tallest boy in the class.

Adjective and Adverbs have three degrees, Positive, Comparative and Superlative.

THE POSITIVE DEGREE IS USED TO DENOTE THE MERE EXISTENCE OF QUALITY.

The Positive Degree of an adjective in comparison is the adjective in its simple form. It is used to denote the mere existence of some quality of what we speak about. It is used when **no comparison is made**.

It is a **tall** building.

Apple is **sweet** to taste.

THE COMPARATIVE DEGREE IS USED TO COMPARE THE QUALITIES OF TWO PERSONS OR THINGS.

The Comparative Degree denotes the existence of a higher degree of the quality than the positive. It is used **when two things** (or two sets of things) are compared.

This building is **taller** than any other building.

Apple is **sweeter** than pear.

The Superlative Degree denotes the existence of the highest degree of the quality. It is used when more than two things are compared.

This is the *tallest* building.
Apple is the *sweetest* fruit.

THE SUPERLATIVE DEGREE IS USED WHEN MORE THAN TWO NOUNS OR THINGS ARE COMPARED.

Johnsy is kind (*Positive Degree*)

Johnsy is kinder than Rosy (*Comparative Degree*)

Johnsy is the kindest of all (*Superlative Degree*)

By adding 'er' and 'est'

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bright	brighter	brightest
black	blacker	blackest
bold	bolder	boldest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
cold	colder	coldest
fast	faster	fastest
great	greater	greatest
high	higher	highest
kind	kinder	kindest
long	longer	longest
small	smaller	smallest
strong	stronger	strongest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
tall	taller	tallest
young	younger	Youngest

By adding 'r' and 'st'

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
brave	braver	bravest
fine	finer	finest
large	larger	largest
nice	nicer	nicest
noble	nobler	noblest
pale	paler	palest
simple	simpler	simplest
wise	wiser	wisest
white	whiter	whitest

By deleting the final 'y' and adding 'ier' and 'iest'

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
costly	costlier	costliest
dry	drier	driest
easy	easier	easiest
happy	happier	happiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
lazy	lazier	lasiest
mercy	mercier	merciest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest

By doubling the final consonants

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
big	bigger	biggest
dim	dimmer	dimmest
fat	fatter	fattest
hot	hotter	hottest
thin	thinner	thinnest

By using more and most

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
active	more active	most active
attractive	more attractive	most attractive
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
brilliant	more brilliant	most brilliant
careful	more careful	most careful
courageous	more courageous	most courageous
cunning	more cunning	most cunning
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
famous	more famous	most famous
faithful	more faithful	most faithful
proper	more proper	most proper
popular	more popular	most popular
splendid	more splendid	most splendid

Irregular Comparisons

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bad	worse	worst
evil	worse	worst
good	better	best
ill	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
well	better	best
late	later	latest
little	less	least
much	more	most
many	more	most
near	nearer	nearest
old	older	oldest
old	elder	eldest

Comparison between two things.

Positive	Comparative	
Johnsy is as clever as Rosy	Rosy is not clever than Johnsy	
Benjamin is atleast as tall as Jane	Jane is not taller than Benjamin	
Comparative	Positive	
Lazar is brighter than Stalin	Stalin is not so bright as Lazar	
Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Akthar is the richest man in Kanpur	Akthar is richer than any other man in Kanpur	No other man in Kanpur is so rich as Akthar
Superlative	Comparative	Positive
London is one of the biggest city in England	London is bigger than most other city in England	Very few cities in England are so big as London

Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Shakespeare is the greatest of all dramatists	Shakespeare is greater than all other dramatists	No other dramatist is so great as Shakespeare
Positive	Comparative	
Lazar is as strong as Lenin	Lenin is not less strong than Lazar	
Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Some boys in our class are at least as intelligent as Benjamin	Some boys in our class are not intelligent than Benjamin	Benjamin is not the most intelligent boy in our class

COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

1. When we compare two objects, persons, qualities, degrees etc. that are some respects equal, we may use the comparison of equality. This is formed by the use of as... adjective / adverb... as

eg. **Your house is as large as mine.**

2. When we compare unequals, we may use the comparative degree of the adjective or adverb with *than*

eg. **His new book is more interesting than his earlier books**

3. When the comparison is negative, we use

so... adjective / adverb... as

eg. **Your house is not quite so large as mine.**

4. In some adverbial clauses of comparison both subject and verb are dropped.

eg. **He is more shy than (he is) unsocial.**

Some people think more about their rights than (they do) about their duties.

5. In clauses of comparison introduced by *than that* 'should' is used.

eg. **I am already to do the work myself rather than that you should have to do it.**

Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Iron is the most useful of all metals.	Iron is more useful than any other metal.	No other metal is so useful as iron.
Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Tom is the cleverest of all boys in the class.	Tom is cleverer than any other boy in the class.	No other boy in the class is so clever as Tom.
Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Rain water is the purest water.	Rain water is purer than any other water.	No other water is so pure as rain water.
Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Paris is one of the busiest cities in England.	Paris is busier than most other cities in England.	Very few cities in England are as busy as Paris.
Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Very few animals are as fast as cheetah.	Cheetah is faster than most other animals.	Cheetah is one of the fastest animals.
Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Football is one of the most	Football is more interesting	Very few games are as

interesting games.	than most other games.	interesting as foot ball.
Comparative		Positive
Paris is hotter than England.		England is not so hot as Paris.
Positive		Comparative
John is as tall as David.		David is not taller than John.
Comparative		Positive
The Blue Mountain Express runs faster than the Green Express.		The Green Express does not run so fast as the Blue Mountain Express.

EXAMPLES

- Very few countries in the world are **as large as** China. (Positive)
- China is **larger than** most other countries in the world. (Comparative)
- China is one of **the largest** countries in the world. (Superlative)
- No other man was **as strong as** Hercules. (Positive)
- Hercules was **stronger than** any other man. (Comparative)
- Hercules was **the strongest** man in the world. (Superlative)
- No other boy in the class is **as intelligent as** James. (Positive)
- James is **more intelligent than** any other boy in the class. (Comparative)
- James is **the most intelligent** boy in the class. (Superlative)
- Very few Indian saints were **as popular as** Vivekananda. (Positive)
- Vivekananda was **more popular than** most other Indian saints. (Comparative)
- Vivekananda was one of **the most popular** Indian saints. (Superlative)
- Maria is **not as intelligent as** Sonia. (Positive)
- Sonia is **more intelligent** than Maria. (Comparative)

EXAMPLES

- John is **taller than any other boy** in the class. (NOT John is taller than any boy in the class.)
- Shakespeare is **greater than any other** English poet. (NOT Shakespeare is greater than any English poet.)

The superlative is used to compare somebody or something with the whole group to which he/she/it belongs.

Compare:

- John is **taller than any other** boy in the class. (John is excluded from the group.)
- John is **the tallest boy** in the class. (John is a part of the group.)
- He is **the best player** in the team. (He is part of the team.)
- He is **better than any other player** in the team. (He is excluded from the group.)

After superlatives, we do not usually use **of** with singular nouns.

- I am **the happiest man in** the world. (NOT I am the happiest man of the world.)

EXAMPLES

- Positive: I am as **strong** as him.
- Comparative: He is not **stronger** than me.

As you can probably see, both sentences mean the same.

- Positive: No other girl in the class is as **tall** as Alice.
- Comparative: Alice is **taller** than **any other** girl in the class.
- superlative: Alice is the **tallest** girl in the class.

More examples are given below:

- Positive: No other metal is as **precious** as gold.
- Comparative: Gold is **more precious** than any other metal.
- Superlative: Gold is **the most precious** of all metals.
- Superlative: India is **the largest** democracy in the world.
- Comparative: India is **larger than** any other democracy in the world.
- Positive: **No other** democracy in the world is as **large** as India.
- Superlative: Susie is **one of the cleverest** girls in the class.
- Comparative: Susie is **cleverer than most other** girls in the class.
- Positive: **Few girls** in the class are as **clever** as Susie.

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