

Degrees of Comparison

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What is a Degree of Comparison?



We use degrees of comparison to compare one person or one thing with another.

Classification of Degrees of Comparison

Degrees of comparison can be classified as

- [Positive](#) Degree
- [Comparative](#) Degree
- [Superlative](#) Degree

Example:

1. Positive Degree

- John is tall.

Heretall is the positive Degree of Adjective.

2. Comparative Degree

- John is taller than Ram.

Heretaller is the comparative Degree of Adjective

3. Superlative Degree:

- John is the tallest.

Heretallest is the superlative Degree of Adjective.

Positive Degree

A degree of [comparison](#) which does not denote any comparison is called the positive degree. When we talk about only one person or one thing, we use the positive degree of comparison.



Example:

- The honey is **sweet**.

In this sentence no comparison is made. It just tells about the sweetness of honey. Thus **sweet** is in positive degree of comparison.

Comparative Degree



Comparative Degree of [Adjective](#) is used at the time of comparison between two persons or two things.

Example:

Ram's cat is **sweeter** than Hari's cat.

In the above sentence, the sweetness of both the cats is compared. So whenever there is a comparison between two things or two persons, we use the comparative degree of comparison.

Superlative Degree

The highest degree of quality is the superlative Degree of Comparison. Whenever comparison is made between more than two things or persons, we use the superlative degree of adjective.



Example:

This is the **biggest** bottle of all.

In the above sentence, **biggest** shows the highest degree of quality and hence it is the superlative degree of comparison.

Rules of Degrees of Comparison

RULE 1: Add er or est to one syllabic words.

Example:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Small	Smaller	Smallest
Short	Shorter	Shortest

Rule 2: When an adjective ends in y, drop the y and change it to i and add er or est.

Example:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Busy	Busier	Busiest
Crazy	Crazier	Craziest

Rule 3: When an adjective ends in e, remove the e and add er or est in its place.

Example:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Cute	Cuter	Cutest
Nice	Nicer	Nicest

Rule 4: For adjectives ending in -ful, -less, -ing use more or most before the word. For two syllabic adjective also use more and most.

Example:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most Beautiful
Pleasant	More pleasant	Most pleasant

Rule 5: There are some adjective which are known as irregular adjectives as they don't follow any rules.

Example:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Good	Better	Best
Little	Less	Least

Use of the Degrees of Comparison

Example:

Sarah is as beautiful as Samantha.

By using 'as....as' we can show positive degree.

Example:

Raja is taller than Rahim.

By using 'than' we can show comparative degree of adjective.

Example:

He is the nicest boy in the class.

With the use of ‘the’ the superlative comparison can be denoted.

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Reference Links:

- http://www.learnenglish.be/gr2_degrees_study.htm
- <http://www.esldesk.com/grammar/adjectives>
- <http://www.english-test.net/forum/ftopic9117.html>
- <http://www.weblearneng.com/the-degrees-of-comparison>

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