

ADJECTIVE

Formation of adjectives

A. Adjectives formed with suffixes

Many adjectives are formed from other parts of speech by adding different suffixes, the most common of which are:

- able** comfortable, reliable
- ible** sensible, visible
- ant** elegant, arrogant
- ent** innocent, intelligent
- al** cultural, medical
- ic** atomic heroic
- ish** foolish, childish
- ive** attractive, expensive
- ful** useful, careful
- less** useless, helpless
- ly** friendly, deadly
- ous** dangerous, curious
- y** dirty, dusty

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B. Adjectives formed with prefixes

Some prefixes give the adjectives the opposite meaning.

A prefix (e.g. *im-*) added to an adjective generally has a negative effect:

I think it's impossible to solve the problem.

- un- uncooked, unimaginable
- in- incapable, inhuman
- il- illegal, illegible
- im- immoral, impractical
- dis- dishonest, disagreeable
- ir- irresponsible, irregular
- counter- counterproductive
- anti- antisocial
- non- non-violent

Some prefixes give a strong clue to meaning:

- inter- between groups - intercontinental
- pre- before - prehistoric
- hyper- to a large degree - hypersensitive
- auto- independent - automatic

- ultra- very extreme - ultramodern
- uni- one - unilateral
- bi- two - bilingual

Compound adjectives

Compound adjectives are made up of two or more words, usually written with hyphens between them. They may be qualitative, classifying or colour adjectives. Normally they have double stress: *`dark-`blue*, *`black-`bearded*.

These are the most common and least restricted patterns for forming compound adjectives.

- adjective or number plus noun plus “-ed”, e.g. *grey-haired*, *one-sided*
- adjective or adverb plus past participle, e.g. *low-paid*, *well-behaved*
- adjective, adverb, or noun plus present participle, e.g. *good-looking*, *long-lasting*

These are less common and more restricted patterns for forming compound adjectives:

- noun plus past participle, *wind-blown*
- noun plus adjective, e.g. *trouble-free*
- adjective plus noun, e.g. *deep-sea*, *present-day*
- past participle plus adverb, e.g. *run-down*
- number plus singular count noun, e.g. *five-page*

Here are some examples of compound qualitative adjectives:

absent-minded, *easy-going*, *good-tempered*, *light-hearted*, *narrow-minded*, *etc.*

Here are some examples of compound classifying adjectives:

audio-visual, *brand-new*, *first-class*, *high-heeled*, *left-handed*, *north-east*

Here are some examples of compound colour adjectives:

bottle-green, *ice-blue*, *sky-blue*, *snow-white*

A few compound adjectives are made up of more than two words. Compound adjectives of two or more words are often written with hyphens when they are used in front of nouns and without hyphens when they are used as the compliment of a link verb.

.... *a down-to-earth approach*, *life-and-death decisions*
Their act is out of date.

Types of adjectives

I. Qualitative adjectives

Adjectives that identify a quality that something or someone has, such as *sad, small, pretty, wise*, etc, are called qualitative adjectives.

II. Classifying adjectives

Adjectives that we use to identify the particular class that something belongs to are called classifying adjectives.

...*financial help, ...my daily shower, ... a sufficient amount of milk*

Some adjectives can be either qualitative or classifying depending on the meaning that you want to convey.

an emotional person – a qualitative adjective

the emotional needs of children – a classifying adjective

Here is a list of adjectives used both as qualitative and classifying adjectives:

academic, conscious, dry, educational, effective, emotional, extreme, late, modern, regular, religious, scientific, secret, similar, etc.

III. Colour Adjectives

When we want to say what colour is something is, we use a colour adjective:

Here is a list of the main colour adjectives:

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>black</i> | <i>cream</i> | <i>orange</i> | <i>red</i> | <i>white</i> |
| <i>blue</i> | <i>green</i> | <i>pink</i> | <i>scarlet</i> | <i>yellow</i> |
| <i>brown</i> | <i>grey</i> | <i>purple</i> | <i>violet</i> | |

If we want to specify a colour more precisely, we can use a submodifier, such as light, pale, dark, deep or bright in front of a colour adjective.

light-brown hair, a pale green suit, a dark-blue dress.

If you want to talk about a colour which doesn't have a definite name you can:

* *use a colour adjective with “-ish” added to the end*

...*greenish glass, yellowish hair*

• *combine two colour adjectives, often with “-ish” on the end of the first one*
greenish-white flowers, ...the blue-green waves

The colours can also be headwords, and the main colours can also be plural headwords.

The snow shadows had turned to a deep blue.

They blended in so well with the khaki and reds of the landscape.

IV. Emphasizing adjectives.

We can emphasize our feelings about something that we mention by putting an adjective such as *complete, absolute, utter*, etc, in front of a noun

He made me feel like a complete idiot.

Order of adjectives

1. When several adjectives come before a noun, they usually have to be put in a particular order. Unfortunately, the rules for adjective order are very complicated, and different grammars disagree about the details. Here are some of the most important rules:

An adjective with a more general meaning such as “*good*”, “*bad*”, “*nice*” usually comes before an adjective with a more specific meaning such as “*comfortable*”, “*clean*” or “*dirty*”. Opinion adjectives tell us what someone thinks of something.

Opinion adjectives

1
general

2
specific

I sat in a lovely comfortable armchair in the corner.

He put on a nice clean shirt.

It was a horrible dirty room.

Fact adjectives come after opinion adjectives.

| | | | | | | |
|------|----------|-----|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| size | physical | age | colour | origin | material | type |
| | shape | | | | | (purpose) |

However, this order is not fixed.

There was a large round wooden table in the room.

The man was carrying a small black plastic bag.

2. You usually put comparative and superlative adjectives in front of other adjectives.

Some of the better English actors have gone to live in Hollywood.

These are the highest monthly figures on record.

3. When you use a noun in front of another noun, you never put adjectives between them. You put any adjectives in front of the first noun.

He works in the French film industry.

He receives a large weekly cash payment.

4. When two or more adjectives are used as the complement of a link verb we use “and”, usually between the two last adjectives, and commas between the others. With three or more adjectives, you link the last two with a conjunction, and put commas after the others.

The day was hot and dusty.

The room was large but square.

The house was old, damp and smelly.

We felt hot, tired and thirsty.

Position of adjectives

* There are two main positions for adjectives: in front of a noun, or as the complement of a link verb.

* Most adjectives can be used in either of these positions, but some adjectives can only be used in one.

Most adjectives can be used in a noun group, after determiners and numbers if there are any, in front of the noun.

He had a beautiful smile.

She bought a loaf of white bread.

There was no clear evidence.

Predicative Adjectives

Some adjectives are normally used only after a link verb.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Some “a-“ adjectives: afraid, alight, alike, alive, alone, ashamed, asleep, awake, aware | The horse was alone in the field. |
| Some adjectives when they describe health and feelings: content, fine, glad, ill (notice that | My son felt unwell. |

| | |
|---|--|
| “sick” can be used before a noun), poorly, sorry, (un)sure, upset, (un)well. (However, these words can sometimes be used between an adverb and a noun e.g.”a terminally ill patient.”) | |
|---|--|

For example, you can say “She was glad”, but you don’t talk about “a glad woman”.

I wanted to be alone.

We were getting ready for bed.

I’m not quite sure.

He didn’t know whether to feel glad or sorry.

Some of “a-“ adjectives have related adjectives that can be used either before a noun or after a linking verb. Compare:

The animal was alive. and * *A living animal.*

Other pairs include: **afraid-frightened, alike-similar, asleep-sleeping, still-calm, awake-alert, alone-lonely, worth-worthy, aware-watchful, drunk-drunken**

Note that *very* is not often used with some of these adjectives. Instead of *very awake we say *wide awake*; instead of *very asleep we say *fast asleep*; instead of * very alone we say *very much alone* or *all alone* or *very lonely*.

Attributive Adjectives

Some adjectives are normally used only in front of a noun.

Classifying adjectives: **atomic, cubic, digital, medical, phonetic; chief, entire, initial, main, only, whole; eventual, occasional, outdoor, northern(etc), maximum, minimum, underlying**

For example, you talk about “an atomic bomb”, but you don’t say “The bomb was atomic”.

He sent countless letters to the newspapers.

This book includes a good introductory chapter on forests.

Emphasizing adjectives:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| absolute | outright | pure | true |
| complete | perfect | real | utter |

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>entire</i> | <i>positive</i> | <i>total</i> |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|

Some of it was absolute rubbish.
He made me feel like a complete idiot.

Elder and *eldest* are used in expressions like elder brother, eldest daughter (*older* and *oldest* are also possible). After a verb, only *older* and *oldest* can be used. (e.g. *My brother's three years older than me.*)

Live /laɪv/ (meaning the opposite of 'dead') is only used attributively, mainly to talk about birds, animals etc (for example, a *live fish*). In predicative position, we use *alive* (e. g. *That fish is still **alive***). When *live* has other meanings, it can also be used predicatively (e. g. *This broadcast comes to you live from Buenos Aires; you'll get an electric shock if you touch that wire – it's live*).

Little is mostly used in attributive position. We can say *A nice little house*, but we would probably say *The house is small*, not **The house is little*.

Compound adjectives like *one-eyed* are usually used attributively, and adjectives made from nouns (like *sports*, in *a sports car*) are also mostly used attributively.

Adjectives that can change in meaning before a noun or after «be»

Some common adjectives can change their meaning according to their position

(early, faint, fine, heavy, ill, late, old, sick).

- a) When *old* is used with words like *friend*, it can mean that a relationship has lasted for a long time. In this case, it can only be used attributively. An *old friend* is one you have known for a long time; if you say *My friend's quite old*, you can only be talking about person's age.
- b) *Sick* can go before a noun or after «be», but *ill* (like *well*) comes after «be».
Sick means «ill» and also means «upset in the stomach»

Adjectives used after a noun

1. Some adjectives that describe size or age can come after a noun group consisting of a number or determiner and a noun that indicates the unit of measurement.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>deep</i> | <i>high</i> | <i>long</i> | <i>old</i> | <i>tall</i> | <i>thick</i> | <i>wide</i> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|

He was about six feet tall.
The water was several metres deep.
The baby is nine months old.

! Note that you do not say "two pounds heavy", you say "two pounds in weight".

2. A few adjectives are used alone after a noun.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>designate</i> | <i>galore</i> | <i>incarnate</i> |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|

There are empty houses galore.

Adjectives before and after nouns with a change of meaning.

1. A few adjectives have a different meaning depending on whether they come in front of or after a noun.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| concerned | involved | present | proper | responsible | elect | adopted |
|-----------|----------|---------|--------|-------------|-------|---------|

a) For example, "the *concerned* mother" means a mother who is worried, but "the mother *concerned*" means the mother who has been mentioned.

concerned parents – (worried) -заинтересованные (озабоченные) родители;

the individuals concerned – (connected with this) -заинтересованные лица;

b) an *involved* sentence- (complicated, difficult to understand)- запутанный, сложный)

the *involved* people (connected with) – связанные с, замешанные в

It's one of those incredibly involved stories.

The people involved are all doctors.

c) *present* follows the noun when it means 'here' or 'there' and it means "existing now" when it is used in front of a noun.

Compare: *the members present* (=the ones who are there at the meeting)

The present members (= those who are members now)

I'm worried about the present situation. (теперешня /настоящая ситуация)

Of the 18 people present, I knew only one. (18 присутствующих человек)

d) **proper** means 'itself' or 'themselves' when it follows the noun. Before the noun it means 'real', 'genuine'. Compare:

After the introduction we started the meeting proper.

Snow don't's not very high, but it's a proper mountain, not a hill.

e) **responsible** means "blamed for" when it follows the noun and "with a sense of duty" when used in front of a noun.

Her parents were trying to act in a responsible manner.

We do not know the person responsible for his death.

f) **elect** means "specially chosen" before a noun and "who has been elected" after a noun.

The elect body meets once a year.

The president elect takes over in May.

g) the solution **adopted** means "the solution chosen"

an **adopted** child lives with people who are not his biological parents

2. Some adjectives can be used immediately after a noun. These include:

some **-ible** and **-able** adjectives such as **available, imaginable, possible, suitable**. However, we use these adjectives immediately after a noun *only* when the noun follows words such as **first, last, next, only** and **superlative adjectives**, or when a prepositional phrase follows the adjective:

*It is the only treatment **suitable**. (or ... the only suitable treatment).*

*It is an offer **available** to club members only.*

3. When adjectives ending in **-able** or **-ible** are postmodified, they imply a temporary meaning:

*e.g. the stars **visible** (i.e. the stars are visible at a time specified)*

*the **visible** stars (i.e. the stars can be seen)*

4. Some attributive adjectives come immediately after the noun in a few fixed expressions. The commonest are: *court martial* (a military court); *Secretary General; Astronomer Royal; God Almighty!*

5. Participles sometimes come after nouns, depending on the exact meaning. Compare:

*There's a **broken** window in the kitchen.*

*The window **broken** yesterday ill have to be paid for.*

Here are some more expressions in which the participle must go after the noun:

*the **only** place **left***

*any person **objecting***

*the **success** **obtained** in the first 6 months*

*the people **taking** part*

*al children **wishing** to complete*

*most of the people **singing** were women*

Substantivized adjectives

Substantivized adjectives may fall into several groups, according to their meaning and the nominal features they possess.

Wholly substantivized adjectives (adjectives converted into nouns) have all the characteristics of nouns: the number, the case, the gender. They may be used with the indefinite or the definite articles.

A native, two natives, the native's hut

1) The wholly substantivized adjectives denote:

a) social rank or position, military ranks, party, creed, gender, race, groups of people

belonging to certain times or epochs, etc.

(a native, a relative, a black, a white, a saint, a patient, a savage, a Liberal, a

Conservative, a Republican, a Democrat, a noble, a private, a Catholic,

a Christian)

*There were a few **deads** missing from the briefing.*

*He is a **relative** of mine.*

*In the distance we saw a **native's** hut.*

b) nationalities

(a Russian, an American, a German, a Greek)

Two Americans entered the room.

c) names of languages

(Russian, Norwegian, English)

Her Spanish is very poor.

He speaks excellent English.

2) Some wholly substantivized adjectives are used only in the plural form.

a) substantivized adjectives denoting studies and examinations. They have either the singular or plural agreement depending on whether they denote one notion or a collection of notions (classics, finals)

Finals were approaching.

b) substantivized adjectives denoting collection of things, substances and foods.

(goods, sweets, vegetables, chemicals, movables, necessaries, valuables, eatables, greens, drinkables, the Commons)

c) substantivized adjectives which are the names of the parts of the body are used with the definite article and with a plural verb.

the whites (of the eyes)

the vitals

Partially substantivized adjectives

They fall into two main grammatical subgroups:

The subgroup PLURALIA TANTUM. They denote:

Groups of people who share the same characteristic or quality

(the blind, the dead, the deaf, the jobless, the old, the poor, the injured)

If separate individuals are meant, some noun must be added:

(a rich man, a sick person)

The wounded were evacuated.

Some past participles have one form for Singular and Plural.

The accused was (were) released on bail.

The undersigned's testimony was taken in account.

! With a few words such as *unemployed* and *dead* we can put a number in front of them .

3 million unemployed

! If you mention two opposite groups you can omit "the"

rich and poor, young and old

Some nations in -sh/ -ch:

the English – two Englishmen/women, three Swiss, etc.

The British are very proud of their sense of humour.

| country | adjective | person | nation |
|---------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Britain | British | a Briton/Britisher | the British |
| England | English | an Englishman | the English |
| France | French | a Frenchman | the French |
| Holland | Dutch | a Dutchman | the Dutch |
| Ireland | Irish | an Irishman | the Irish |
| Spain | Spanish | a Spaniard | the Spanish |
| Wales | Welsh | a Welshman | the Welsh |

Nationality words ending in *-ese* and *-s* can also be used like this (*the Japanese, the Lebanese, the Chinese, the Vietnamese, the Swiss*). When we refer to one person we use the indefinite article.

| country | adjective | person | nation |
|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| China | Chinese | a Chinese | the Chinese |
| Portugal | Portuguese | a Portuguese | the Portuguese |
| Japan | Japanese | a Japanese | the Japanese |
| Vietnam | Vietnamese | a Vietnamese | the Vietnamese |

The subgroup SINGULARIA

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Some substantivized adjectives have only the singular form. They denote:

a) generalized or abstract notions. They are used with the definite article and have singular agreement.

(the useful, the beautiful, the agreeable, the unreal)

The fabulous is always interesting.

These substantivized adjectives are usually used in philosophical writing.

! There are, however, certain exceptions. Substantivized adjectives denoting

abstract notions may sometimes be used in the plural. Then no article is used.

There are many variables and unknowns. (переменных и неизвестных величин)

b) languages

Substantivized adjectives denoting languages are used without a determiner, but are often modified by a pronoun. They also have singular agreement.

He speaks excellent English.

c) names of colours.

When used in general sense they are treated as uncountables; when denoting shades of colour, they are treated as countable (may be used with **a**-article and

in the plural):

Blue suits you best.

The sky was a pale blue.

The women were dressed in reds and blues.

Clothing of particular colour can be referred to simply by using the colour adjective.

The men wore grey.

lady in red

Substantivized adjectives in set expressions and prepositional phrases.

(in the main, in short, in general, all of a sudden)

He answered in the affirmative (in the negative)

To get the better of smth., a change for the better

It is all for the best.

He was at his best.

Are you tired? –Not in the least.

Participial adjectives

Participles can be used as adjectives to describe people and things.

-ing adjectives

1. One group of “-ing” adjectives describes the effect that something has on your feelings and ideas, or on the feelings and ideas of people in general.

(surprising, annoying, boring, interesting, shocking)

He lives in a charming house just outside the town.

She always has a warm welcoming smile.

2. These adjectives are normally qualitative adjectives. They have comparatives, superlatives and can be used with a submodifier.

A very convincing example

Much more convincing

The most boring books

3. They can be used in attributive or predicative position.
4. Some “-ing” adjectives have a similar meaning to the usual meaning of the related verb.
5. “-ing” adjectives are used to describe a process or state that continues over a period of time.

increasing labour

Britain is an ageing society.

These adjectives are classifying adjectives. They can't be used with “very” and “rather”. They can be identified by adverbs which describe the speed with which the process happens.

Rapidly rising productivity

6. “-ing” adjectives can be used attributively as adjectives to indicate what someone or something is doing.

A walking figure

-Ed adjectives

Most “-ed” adjectives are past participles of a verb:

a disappointed man

Noun + “-ed” :

a bearded man

Some “-ed” adjectives are not closely related to any other words:

sophisticated electronic devices

a beloved child

Adjectives with the form as irregular past participles:

a broken bone

The past participles of some phrasal verbs can be used as adjectives:

the built-up urban man of the city

Most “-ed” adjectives have passive meaning:

a frightened person

A bored student complained to his teacher.

Qualitative “-ed” adjectives refer the person's mental or emotional reaction:

a worried old man

“-Ed” adjectives describe the expression, voice or manner of the person affected:

blue frightened eyes

Some “-ed” adjectives have a similar meaning to the related verb, and some do not:

alarmed, confused - determined, mixed

Many “-ed” adjectives can be submodified with an adverb of degree:

pleasantly furnished rooms

a well-known novelist

Sometimes “-ed” adjectives can not be used without an adverb:

well-equipped army

powerfully-built man

Some “-ed” adjectives have active meaning (fallen, vanished, retired, grown –up, escaped, faded)

an escaped prisoner, vanished civilizations, fallen rocks

“-Ed” adjectives can be used attributively and as a complement of a link verb:

pleased, tired, etc.

Degrees of Comparison

Gradable adjectives may be used in three types of comparison:

A: a higher degree

B: the same degree

C: a lower degree.

A Higher Degree

1.The comparative degree is used when one thing or set of things is compared with another thing or set.

2. When one thing or set of things is compared with two or more other things or sets the superlative degree is used.

The Volga is longer than the Dnieper.

The Volga is the longest river in Europe.

The formation of comparative and superlative.

Most qualitative adjectives have three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative and superlative

Adjectives form their degree of comparison in the following ways.

a) by adding the suffixes –er and –est

b) by placing “more” and “the most” before adjectives

Monosyllabic adjectives form their comparative and superlative degree by adding the suffixes –er and –est

new – newer – the newest

bright – brighter – the brightest

Two – syllable adjectives ending in –er, –ow, –y, –le also form their comparative and superlative degree by adding the suffixes –er and –est

happy – happier – the happiest

narrow – narrower – the narrowest

clever – cleverer – the cleverest

simple – simpler – the simplest

but if adjectives ending in –er or –y are preceded by **un** – they can be inflected in two ways:

unhappy – unhappier – the unhappiest

more unhappy – the most unhappy

3. Two – syllable adjectives with the stress on the second syllable add the suffixes –er and –est

polite – politer – the politest

2.Adjectives of more than two syllables form their comparatives and superlatives with the help of **more** and **most**.

beautiful-more beautiful-the most beautiful

personal-more personal-the most personal

Some points to notice

a) adjectives formed from participles and ing – forms

tired-more tired-the most tired

interesting-more interesting-the most interesting

b) adjectives used only predicatively

afraid – more afraid

aware – more aware

the superlatives are hardly ever used in English

c) two – syllable adjectives that end in –ful, –er, or –less only take **more** and **the most**

useful-more useful-the most useful

obscure –more obscure-the most obscure

d) the following adjectives take **more** and **the most** only: careless, certain, complex, fertile, foolish, frequent, normal, private

e) Both ways of forming the comparative and superlative degrees are used with two-syllable adjectives stressed on the first syllable: common, pleasant, polite, solid, handsome, quiet, cruel, tired, and word ending in -er and -le.

f) **little** is not usually compared
little/small - smaller – the smallest.

Spelling and pronunciation rules.

1.If the adjectives ends in a consonant preceded by a stressed short vowel the consonant is doubled

sad – sadder – the saddest

2.If the adjective ends in -y preceded by the consonant -y is changed into *i* before -er, -est

busy – busier – the busiest

but: *gay – gayer – the gayest.*

3.If the adjective ends in -e, this *e* is dropped before -er, est

fine – finer – the finest.

4.In such adjectives as long, strong, [g] sound is added to the [n] of the base

long [l n] –longer [l ng]

while in dear and near the final [r] is not pronounced, but it is pronounced in dearer, dearest

Irregular Comparison

Good – better – the best

Bad/ill worse – the worst

Much / many – more – most

Little – smaller- the smallest

Old – older – the oldest (for age)

-elder – the eldest (speaking about members of the family (with nouns *son, daughter, brother, sister*) or a social group.

My elder brother is older than me.

This building is the oldest in the city.

Who is the eldest in your family?

far – farther – the farthest (with reference to distance only)

further – the furthest (with reference to distance, abstract notions, to denote “another” “additional”

I found him in the furthest /furthest part of the park

This is a further example of his good will

near – nearer – the nearest (reference to distance)

near-nearer – the next (reference to order)

What is the nearest station?

We are getting off at the next stop

late-later-the latest (reference to time , “a new one, the most recent one”)

late -the latter-the last (reference to order, “final”)

When does the last train leave?

What is the latest news?

Given a choice of travelling by ship or by plane most people choose the latter.

A lower degree.

Comparison to a lower degree is expressed by the following constructions:

1.the last +adj

2. less + adj + than

3.not as/so + adj + as

There is a slight difference in meaning between:

Barbara’s car was not so/as expensive as Tom’s

Barbara’s car was less expensive than Tom’s

Barbara’s car is cheaper than Tom’s.

- means that both cars are expensive but that Barbara’s car is less expensive than Tom’s, whereas
- gives the impression that Barbara’s and Tom’s cars are cheap.

Qualifiers after comparatives

a) noun groups

Charlie was more honest than his predecessor (than me, him, her)

Janis was shorter than he.

b) Adjuncts(приложение, дополнение)

...worse than in any of the previous 12 years

c) clauses:

I would have done a better job than you did

Position of comparatives

1) after the whole noun group

Willie owned a larger collection of books than anyone else I have ever met.

2) immediately after a noun.

We’ve got a rat bigger than a cat living in our roof.

More and More than

a) more in front of a whole noun group – to indicate that something has more of the qualities of one thing than another.

Music is more a way of life than an interest

This is more a war movie than a western

b) more than before adjectives is an emphatic adverb of degree

... they are more than se 100

Qualifying structures with superlatives.

If we need to refer to the point of the comparison we use a qualifying phrase or clause which consist of

a) prepositional phrase normally beginning with ‘in’ or ‘of’

Henry was the biggest of them.

If the superlative is a modifier in front of a noun, the prepositional phrase comes after the noun.

... the best bargain for his money.

... the worst business in the world.

b) a relative clause

The visiting room was the worst I had seen.

A superlative is sometimes accompanied by another adjective ending in **-able** or **-ible**. This second adjective can be placed:

a) between the superlative and the noun group

The narrow imaginable range of interest

b) or after the noun group

the most beautiful scenery imaginable

c) used with ordinal numbers

...the second biggest industrial company

As...as

a) We use **as...as** with an adjective in between to say that something or someone is like something or someone else, that one situation is like another:

Was the film as funny as his last one?

Andrew came round to my flat as fast as he could

Negative forms of sentences like this can use either **not as** or **not so**. In formal speech and writing it is more common to use **less than**:

The gap between the sides is as wide as it was. (or...is less wide than it was)

The bees are plentiful, but not so common as last summer. (or ...but less common than last summer.)

Some people find cooking easy, but others are not as/so fortunate (as these).

We use **not so** in a number of common expressions. For example: **I'm not so sure; It's** (=the situation is) **not so bad; Not so loud!**(=be more quiet); **He is not so good** (=not very well).

b) If you put a countable noun between the adjectives and the second **as**, you should use *a/an* in front of the noun (if the noun is singular):

Despite his disability, he tried to lead as normal life as possible.

He was as patient a teacher as anyone could have had.

The negative form of sentences like this can use either **not as** or sometimes **not such**:

He's not as good a player as he used to be.

He's not such a good player as he used to be. (Notice the different word order.)

They are not such terrible children as we'd expected. (we don't use not as with plural nouns.)

We can use **how**, **so** and **too** followed by an adjective in a similar way/;

How significant a role did he play in your life?

It's not quiet so straightforward a problem as it might at first seem.

'Conspiracy' is perhaps too strong a word.

How big a piece do you want?

c) **as...as** is also used in sentences with **much** and **many** to talk about quantities.

She earns at least as much as Mark, and probably more.

London has twice as many banks as the rest of south-east England.

We also use **as much/many** as or **as little/few** as to say that a quantity or amount is larger or smaller than expected. **Many** and **few** are used before numbers; **much** and **little** are used with *amounts* such as \$5 and 20%, and *distance* such as 3 meters:

There is a small number involved, possibly as few as a hundred. (not...as little as...)

Prices have increased by as much as 300 per cent.

d) Submodifiers “**just**, **quiet**, **nearly**, **almost**” can be used in front of the comparative structures.

Sunburn can be just as severe as a heat burn.

e) instead of **as...as** we can use prepositional phrases beginning with “**like**” after link verbs. **Like** is used after be, feel, look, seem, smell, sound, taste.

It was like a dream

‘**Like**’ can have the comparative “**more like**” and “**less like**” and the superlative “**most like**” and “**least like**”

Submodifiers can be used in front of “**like**”

He looks just like a baby

Note: if the noun group after ‘*as*’ or ‘*like*’ in any of these structures is a pronoun, you can use an object pronoun or possessive pronoun.

His car is the same as mine.

Same as

The same as can be followed by a noun group, a pronoun, an adjunct or a clause.

If two things are exactly like each other, we can say that they are **the same**

They are exactly the same.

Before “**the same as**” and “**the same**” we can use some submodifiers: exactly, just, more or less, much, nearly, virtually.

We can put a noun such as “*size, length or colour*” after the same.

They were almost the same height.

When two things are like each other we can use adjectives “*alike, comparable, equivalent, identical and similar*”.

Adjectives + preposition

Adjectives which are followed by “TO”

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| (un)accustomed | allergic | proportional | similar |
| close | devoted | related | subject |
| injurious | integral | resistant | |

“OF”

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| aware | capable | characteristic | desirous |
| illustrative | incapable | reminiscent | |
| representative | | | |
| nervous | | | |

“WITH”

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--------|
| compatible | consonant | filled |
| pleased | | |

Other prepositions

Descended from, inherent in, lacking in

“Two prepositions”

answerable for (to); connected to (with); dependent on (upon); parallel to (with)

Adjectives + *that* –clause or *to*-infinitive

When an adjective follows a linking verb with a personal subject we can put a number of things after the adjective, including:

| adjective + | examples |
|--|--|
| <i>that</i> -clause (to talk about someone’s feelings or opinion, or about how sure we are of something) <i>He became worried (that) she might leap out from behind a door.</i> <i>She left certain (that) she’d seen him before.</i> | afraid, alarmed, amazed, angry, annoyed, ashamed, astonished, aware, concerned, delighted, disappointed, glad, (un) happy, pleased, shocked, sorry, upset, worried; certain, confident, positive, sure (with the exception of aware and confident these can also be followed by a <i>to</i> -infinitive) |
| <i>to</i> -infinitive You are free at any time you want. <i>They are easy to please</i> <i>She was ready to admit (that) I was right..</i> | (un)able, careful, crazy, curious, difficult, easy, free, good, hard, impossible, inclined, nice, prepared, ready, welcome, willing (the underlined adjectives we can use <i>adjective+ to</i> -infinitive+ <i>that</i> -clause) |
| -ing form <i>He was busy doing his homework</i> | busy, worth (these can’t be followed by a <i>that</i> -clause or <i>to</i> -infinitive) |

OTHER EXAMPLES OF COMPARISON

1) Parallel increase

Parallel increase is indicated by

the + comparative ...the + comparative:

e. g. **The sooner** you visit Aunt Martha, **the better** for you.

The more friends she has, **the happier** she is.

The better the joke (is), **the louder** the laugh(is).

The longer Sue stays in Canada, **the less likely** she will ever go back to England.

It almost seems that **the more expensive** the wedding, **the shorter** the marriage!

2) Gradual increase

Gradual increase is indicated by two adjectives in the comparative joined by and:

e. g. *My car is getting dirtier and dirtier.*

She became more and more famous.

3) Comparison of actions

Comparison of actions is formed in a similar way to the comparison of nouns:

e. g. *It is nicer to go to the cinema than (to) stay at home.*

Speaking a foreign language is not as easy as speaking one's own.

MODIFICATION OF COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

1) Premodification

a) The comparatives of adjectives can be premodified:

e. g. *far more careful*

all the sooner

rather better

a little more polite, etc.

b) The superlatives of adjectives can be premodified only by *very*, which must be preceded by a determiner:

e. g. *the very last*

my very best.

2) Postmodification

Both the comparatives and the superlatives of adjectives can be postmodified by intensifying phrases:

e. g. *He is*

| | | | |
|---|------------------|---|----------------|
| { | <i>cleverer</i> | } | <i>by far.</i> |
| | <i>cleverest</i> | | |

By far is the most common postmodifier.

COMPARISON WITH *MORE* AND *MOST*

Any one- or two-syllable adjective can optionally be compared with *more* and *most* in order to emphasize the idea expressed by the adjective itself:

e. g. *Mr. Brown has recently become more rich* (i. e. "that he was not rich before").

AS OR *THAN* FOLLOWED BY A PRONOUN

1) When *as* or *than* is followed by a pronoun in the person, the verb is usually repeated:

e. g. *We are not as poor as they are.*

He speaks English better than his sister does.

2) However, when *as* or *than* is followed by a pronoun in the first or second person the verb is usually omitted:

e. g. *I am not as tall as you.*

He is smaller than I.

3) It is worth noting that in formal English, a first person pronoun is used in the nominative case, whereas in informal language, it is put into the objective case:

e. g. *He has more friends than (I/me).*

Adjectives used with the pronoun *one/ones*

1) Adjectives of quality can be followed by the pronoun *one* (singular) or *ones* (plural) instead of nouns:

e. g. *I like this skirt but I must take a larger one.*

Although Tom is very fat, he always prefers to eat bigger cakes rather than smaller ones.

2) However, when the adjective is used in the superlative degree, in the comparative degree to denote selection, or when the adjective implies colour, *one/ones* can be omitted:

e. g. *I bought the biggest (one).*

I bought the bigger (one) of the two.

Which will you buy? I'll buy the red (one).

Elliptical sentences

Occasionally, an adjectives can function as an elliptical sentence:

e. g. *Nervous, Mrs. Brown opened the door.*

Mrs. Brown, nervous, opened the door.

Mrs. Brown opened the door, nervous.

Adjectives used in exclamations

Adjectives may either form exclamations:

e. g. *Good!*

Excellent!

or be part of exclamatory adjective sentences:

e. g. *How nice!*

How kind of you!

Position of adj, F_1

Ex.1 Correct the following sentences if necessary.

1. The asleep children lay peacefully in their beds. 2. The police forced their way through the afraid crowd. 3. Within a few minutes she was asleep. 4. When he was alive he was poor and unknown. 5. I think Paul's fairly happy at work, and seems a content man. 6. No one really believes there are alive creatures on Mars. 7. No two people are alike. 8. The ill man was put in a ward. 9. Everyone I know is afraid of Harry's dogs. 10. Backley has a back ijury and Peter faces an alike problem.

Ex.2 Complete the sentences using the following adjectives:

responsible involved concerned present

1. Clara and Adam were the ... children ... for the damage. 2. The ... situation ... cannot be allowed to continue. 3. This ... process ... takes three days. It's very complex. 4. There were over three hundred ... people... at the meeting. 5. New regulations have come into force on the storage of dangerous chemicals, all the ... companies ... have been notified of these. 6. Most of the ... people ... in the battle are now dead. 7. Kevin always seemed such a ... boy ... /

Ex.3 Rewrite these sentences so as to complete them with an adjective in -ible, -able. (available, imaginable, possible, suitable). Make up sentences on analogy.

This solution was the best. – It was the best solution possible.

This response was the only one. – It was the ...

This decision was the hardest. – It was the ...

This method was the most economical. It was the ...

Ex.4 Put the adjectives into correct order and position in each sentence.

1. (black, ugly) Look at this spider!

Look at this ugly black spider!

2. (stone, spacious) They live in a house.

3. (lively, little) Cary is a girl.

4. (red, German) He's dreaming about the car he saw.

5. (warm, united) Judith found her fiance's family.

6. (those, old, rotten) Apples taste.

7. (gigantic, Gothic) The postcard showed a cathedral.

8. (embroidered, lovely) What a tablecloth!

9. (big, round) She ordered the hat.

10. (boring, these, old) Mark hates novels.

SUFFIXES

Ex.1 Form adjectives corresponding to the following words:

Courage, rest, health, adventure, nation, success, practice, wealth, person, cure, observe, open, pain, sympathize, droop, accident, description, murder, surgery, shake, distinguish, bear, response, space, fury, misery.

Ex.2 Open the brackets:

1. The (base) ... training a soldier receiver gives him an introduction to army life. 2. My uncle's (child) ... behaviour embarrassed everyone at the wedding. 3. Dana felt quite (please)...when she won the prize. 4. Masai tribesmen in Africa may have a (war) ... appearance, but they are (friend) ... to tourists. 5. Building bricks are very (educate) ... toys for children. 6. The languages spoken in North Africa are very (difference) ... from those spoken in the South. 7. The old (wood) ... bridge finally collapsed last month. 8. You can trust him completely. He is very (depend) 9. Helen's mother is very (satisfy) ... with her school grades. 10. It was very (consider) ... of you to inform me of my great-aunt's death.

Prefixes

Prefixes are added to the beginning of words. Some prefixes give the adjectives the opposite meaning.

Unhappy, invisible, illegal, irresponsible,
Discontented, counterproductive, antisocial,
Amoral, non-violent

Some prefixes give a strong clue to meaning

Inter: between groups – intercontinental

Pre: before - prehistoric (before history)

Hyper: to a large degree - hypersensitive (extremely sensitive)

Auto: independent - automatic (works independently)

Ultra: very extreme - ultramodern (very modern)

Uni: one - unilateral

Bi: two - bicentennial

EXERCISES

Ex.1 Match the adjectives in A to their definitions in B

| A | B |
|------------------|---|
| Irrelevant | Greater than the speed of sound |
| Premature | Dull, regular, unchanging |
| Extraordinary | Extremely correct, very traditional |
| Multiracial | Weak, dubious, unable to persuade |
| Bilateral | Not able to be foreseen, unreliable |
| Asymmetrical | Involving people of many nationalities |
| Unpredictable | Not connected to, having no usual purpose |
| Inaccurate | Happening or being done too early |
| Autobiographical | Having faults or weakness |
| Ultra-orthodox | Two sides or halves completely different |
| Disillusioned | Unusual, exceptional, remarkable |
| Monotonous | Between two groups |
| Supersonic | Disappointed, disenchanted |
| Imperfect | Not correct |
| Unconvincing | Written by oneself about oneself |

Ex.2 Use some of the adjectives mentioned above to complete the sentences.

1. America is a ... society and is often referred to as a "melting pot". 2. His books are They include experience from his own life. 3. Concorde is a ... airplane. 4. The baby was ... and weighed only one kilo at birth. 5. The ... tone of his voice during the lecture put us all to sleep. 6. She suffers from a mental disorder, therefore his behaviour is sometimes 7. That machine gives ... results. You should check them again. 8. We are talking about his possible promotion, so your comments about his dog are quite

GRADABLE AND UNGRADABLE ADJECTIVES

Gradable adjectives can be used with adverbs such as very or extremely to say that a thing or person has more or less of a particular quality.

Ungradable adjectives imply "to a large degree" and are seldom used with these adverbs. Instead we can use adverbs such as absolutely or totally.

extremely, deeply, fairly, hugely, common, immensely, pretty, rather, really, strong, reasonably, slightly, very

Gradable adjectives

angry, big, busy, comfortable,

happy, important, quiet, rich,

young

Ungradable adjectives

amazed, awful, dreadful, furious

huge, impossible, invaluable,

absolutely, completely, entirely, entirely, pretty, really, simply, totally, terrible, utterly

wonderful, useless

She was extremely rich.

Our teacher gave us a completely impossible problem to solve.

EXERCISES

Ex.1 Suggest an appropriate adverb to complete each sentence.

1. The play was ... marvelous. 2. The answer is ... simple. 3. His new flat is ... enormous. 4. He was ... devastated by the news. 5. The instructions were ... complicated. 6. I was ... disappointed. 7. The answer was ... absurd. 8. The questions were ... hard. 9. Her looks are ... popular. 10. I was ...n terrified by the film. 11. He's a(n) ... successful artist. 12. He's a(n) ... essential member of the team.

Ex.2 Use an adverb + adjective in your response.

Example: A friend of mine said she had just won a thousand dollars. - I was absolutely delighted.

1. Ann told me that she was emigrating to Australia. -
2. Someone broke a window in my house. -
3. A handsome man told me that I was very beautiful. -
4. Mary lost some airline tickets she had just bought. -
5. My friend has grown very beautiful flowers. -

FOCUS 4 THE ORDER OF ADJECTIVES IN SENTENCES

When we use more than one adjective before a noun, there is often a preferred order for these adjectives.

Opinion + physical quality + shape + age = colour + participle adjectives + origin + material + type + purpose + noun

For example: an old plastic container, a hard red ball, a frightening Korean mask, a round biscuit tin, a small broken plate, a useful digital alarm clock.

Gradable adjectives (describing opinion, size, quality, shape, and age) usually precede ungradable adjectives (participle adjective and adjectives describing origin, material, type and purpose).

When two gradable adjectives come before the noun, we can put either a comma or and between them.

an attractive, big garden

an attractive *and* big garden

Two color adjectives have and between them.

Sweden's yellow *and* blue flag.

Two ungradable adjectives have and between them if they are from the same class, but and is not used if they are from different classes.

Financial *and* political conditions

Improving financial conditions

For more information see the corresponding topic in Part II.

EXERCISES

Ex.1 Put the following adjectives and nouns in the correct order to create a sentence.

1. ugly/plastic/old/table

She inherited an ... from her aunt.

2. leather/black/jacket/smart

She was wearing a ... yesterday.

3. window/oval/magnificent/stained glass

There is a ... in this church.

4. cream cakes/round/large/three

She prepared ... for the party.

5. children/two/charming/little/Japanese

I met ... in the park.

Ex.2_Rewrite each description in the right order.

city: Belgian, beautiful, little

club: jazz, local, modern

dinner: excellent, cold, French

buildings: modern, industrial, concrete

dress: evening, red, silk, new

eyes: narrow, colourless, ugly

frame: flat, gold, huge

furniture: old, lovely, comfortable

ink: drawing, Swiss, good

Jacket: sport, leather, stylish

squares: brick, little, ancient

boots: French, sky, leather

tie: blue, woolen, modern

trousers: cotton, grey, old, ugly

trunks: black, nylon, swimming

Ex. 3 Put the following into the correct order.

1) suede / Italian / new / red / soft / shoes

2) elderly / tall / Frenchman

3) oval / Venetian / ancient / valuable / glass

4) shiny / large / expensive / brown / leather / case

5) square / wooden / old / nice / table

6) modern / stone / large / beautiful / cottage

7) porcelain / tea / blue / thin / old / cup

8) young / blonde / handsome / tall / man

9) old / several / English / beautiful / castles

10) pretty / French / young / a lot of / girls

11) dark blue / best / silk / my / shirt

12) young / many / factory / German / workers

Ex. 4 Put the adjectives given in the correct order in these sentences

1. French, small

Her family ran a ... restaurant in the theatrical district of the city.

2. green, small
His eyes were surrounded by many wrinkles.
3. French, wistful
I sang her a ballad.
4. soft, yellow
The small lamp on the table made a glow all around her.
5. huge, gilt
... .. earrings dangled from her ears.
6. woolen, white
The baby was tightly wrapped in a shawl.
7. Chinese, young
Karen had made friends with some girls.
8. long, unbroken
In the silence which followed she realized that he had fallen asleep.
9. check, old, pink
A potted plant stood on the cloth

Ex. 5 Put the adjectives in brackets in the most appropriate order.

1. Mine's the ... car (blue, Japanese, small)
2. I rent a(n) .. house (furnished, large, old)
3. I've just bought a ... table (beautiful, coffee, wooden)
4. Their ... forces soon overcame the invasion (combined, military, powerful)
5. Have you seen this ... invention? (fantastic, German, new)
6. There was a ... rug On the floor (soft, wonderful, wooden)
7. She gave me a ... box (jewellery, metal, small, square)

Writ and between the adjectives if possible.

8. Cycling is a(n) ... activity (outdoor, popular)
9. They live in ... houses (mud, straw)
10. He was a ... doctor (famous, medical)
11. There was an ... meeting (important, urgent)
12. I've just finished a ... novel (boring, depressing)

Note: The order of predicative adjectives is less fixed than the order before a noun. We usually use and before the last adjective. Adjectives expressing an opinion often come last.

The city is old and *beautiful*.

We can use but when two qualities are in contrast.
The solution is cheap *but* effective.

FOCUS 5 COMPARISON

A. There are three degrees of comparison:

| positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| dark | darker | darkest |
| tall | taller | tallest |
| useful | more useful | most useful |

One-syllable adjective form their comparative and superlative by adding er and est to the positive form:

| | | |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| bright | brighter | brightest |
|--------|----------|-----------|

Adjectives of three or more syllables form their comparative and superlative by adding more and most before the positive:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| interested | more interested | most interested |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Adjectives two syllables follow one or other of the above rules. Those endings in ful or re usually take more and most.

| | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| doubtful | more doubtful | most doubtful |
| obscure | more obscure | most obscure |

Those ending in er, y, or ly usually add er, est.

| | | |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| clever | cleverer | cleverest |
| silly | sillier | silliest |

B. Irregular comparisons:

| | | |
|------------|---------|---|
| bad | worse | worst |
| far | farther | farthest (of distance only) |
| additional | further | furthest (of distance, further debate, the furthest concession) |
| good | better | best |
| little | less | least |
| many | more | most |
| much | | |
| old | elder | elder (of people only) |

older (of people and things)
elder, eldest imply seniority rather than age. They are chiefly used for comparison within a family: my elder brother, her eldest boy, but elder is not used with than.

C. Constructions with comparison.

With the positive form of the adjective we use as... as in the affirmative and not as/not so ... as in the negative:

He was as white as a sheet
Your coffee is not as/so good as the coffee my mother makes.

With the comparative we use than.
He is stronger than I expected.

Comparison of three or more people/things is expressed by the superlative with the ... in/of:

This is the oldest theatre in London.
The youngest of the family was the most successful.

Parallel increase is expressed by the + comparative... the + comparative:
The smaller the house is, the less it will cost.

Gradual increase is decrease is expressed by two comparatives joint by and:

The weather is getting colder and colder.
He became less and less interested.

Comparisons with like and as. Like is used only with nouns, pronouns or gerund.

He swims like a fish.
Be like him. It was like being in prison.

As is used when there is a finite verb:
Do as Peter does.

He worked like a slave - very hard
He worked as a slave - he was a slave

EXERCISES

Ex.1 Fill in the blanks with the comparative form of the adjective in brackets.

1. This perfume is not ... that one (strong) 2. Luke is just ... Alan as a designer (creative). 3. I am a lot ... now than I used to be (thin). 4. Jane has always been ... than Alice in the life of the neighbourhood (active) 5. Syria is ... than Egypt

(democratic). 6. Sara isn't ... her mother at that age (pretty). 7. The rain this winter was ... than last year (heavy). 8. The girl looked ... than usual (pale).

Ex.2 Fill in the blanks with the superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

1. David is ... person I know (funny). 2. That was ... meal I have ever eaten (delicious). 3. This is ... rout to the Old City according to the map (direct). 4. Val is ... girl in her class (pretty). 5. Einstein was one of ... people who ever lived (intelligent).

Ex.3 Fill in the correct form of the adjective in brackets.

1. Mount Everest is ... mountain in the world (high). 2. Cambridge University is not quite ... Oxford University (old). 3. Trains are generally ... than buses (fast). 4. This doorway is a lot ... than the main entrance (narrow). 5. Glasgow is ... city in Scotland (large). 6. My graduation day was one of ... days of my life (happy). 7. The capital is not quite ... you image (big). 8. This model of car is ... in the UK than in Africa, where it stands up well to the hot climate (common). 9. The old city of Fes is ... of all the cities in Morocco in my opinion (interesting). 10. David is not ... as his sister (tall). 11. Your car is in ... condition than mine (good). 12. Warwick Castle is probably ... medieval castle in England (fine). 13. There were ... people at the wedding than I had expected (few). 14. Flights to England are ... than flights to America from this airport (frequent). 15. That was ... meal I have ever eaten (bad). 16. Jeanette is just ... Shelly in students politics (active). 17. Daniel is not ... to talk to as Nathan (interesting). 18. The new student is ... at maths than many of the others in his class (clever). 19. It is ... living in the city centre than in the suburbs (noisy). 20. Peter's injuries were ... than we had expected (bad).

Ex.4 Match the adjectives on the left with their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1) Further | a) after some time |
| 2) father | b) the second of the two things or persons |
| 3) last | c) the smallest |
| 4) latter | d) coming immediately after, in space or in order |
| 5) elder | e) additional |
| 6) nearer | f) at a greater distance |
| 7) next | g) least good |
| 8) least | h) coming after the others in time or order |

- 9) later
10) worst
- i) senior of numbers of the family
j) closer

Ex.5 Open the brackets and use the comparative form of the adjectives and adverbs.

1. This exercise is (simple) than that one. 2. Why are you talking? Please be (quite). 3. New districts of Moscow are (beautiful) than the old ones. 4. He is (clever) than his brother. 5. My (old) sister is 4 years (old) than me. 6. There are many customers on Saturday than on weekdays. 7. Are expensive thing (good) than cheap ones? 8. Is English grammar (difficult) than Russian grammar? 9. He has made (few) mistakes than yesterday. 10. She had to give us (far) information though she didn't want to. 11. Students from group 3 are (industrious) than those from Group 1. 12. Have you met our new colleagues, Mr. Brown and Mr. Green? The former is an excellent economist, (late) is a good lawyer. 13. They have got down to business without any (far) delay. 14. This matter is (urgent) than that one. 15. He plays tennis (bad) than she. 16. He's got a still (old) edition of this book. 17. Is there a (late) train passing here? 18. Sparrows are (common) than any other birds. 20. Motor-cycles are (noisy) than cars, aren't they?

Ex.6 Choose the right variant.

1. Martin was the (more talented/most talented) of the two brothers. 2. Of the three shirts I like the blue one (better/best). 3. My dog is the (prettier/prettiest) of the two. 4. This summer is the (better/best) of the two presented. 5. There are nine planets in our solar system and Pluto is the (farther/farthest). 6. Mary is the (tallest/taller) of the two girls. 7. The boss likes my plan (better/best) of the two. 8. This is the (less difficult/least difficult) of the two. 10 Mother was the (more/most) beautiful of seven daughters.

Ex.7 Make up sentences according to the example.

Example: life/becoming/hard - Life is becoming harder and harder.

Life is becoming more and more difficult.

1. people/living/long
2. going/abroad/becoming/popular
3. crime/becoming/common
4. the light in the rooms/becoming/dim

5. factories/employing /few/workers
6. computers/becoming/expensive
7. his heart/beating/hard
8. Moscow/becoming/beautiful
9. his voice/becoming/weak
10. nights in winter/becoming/long

Ex. 8 Give the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

1. The Pan-American Highway is (long) road in the world. 2. The Beatles were (successful) pop group. 3. Japan has (crowded) railways in the world. 4. This is our (old) national airline. 5. The Chrysler Building was once (tall) in the world. 6. Is English (useful) language to learn? 7. This is one of (expensive) stores in the city. 8. The Queen must be (rich) woman in the world. 9. Unfortunately, I haven't heard (late) news . I think it was very interesting. 10. Is the Mona Liza (valuable) painting in the world? 11. His house is (far) in the street. 12. February is (snowy) and (cold) month of the year here. 13.(dangerous) spider is the black widow, whose bite can kill a man in a few minutes. 14. The world's (expensive) perfume costs 550 dollars per bottle. 15. (deep) part of the Pacific Ocean is 11 kilometres below the sea-level. 16. I wonder than his (near) step is going to be. 17. Who are (old) members of the club? 18. It was (late) thing I expected of him. 19. The diamond is (hard) mineral in the world. 20. His house is (far) in our street.

Ex. 9 Fill in the blanks by using comparatives to express gradual increase or decrease

1. The baby looks fatter this week than last. It looks *fatter and fatter* every week.
2. Life is more expensive this year than last. Life is becoming ... every year.
3. Computers are not as expensive this year as last. Computers are getting
4. Your English is even better than last year. Your English is getting
5. Your room looks messy. It looked less messy yesterday. Your room looks
6. Claudia was very nervous before the exam. She got more nervous every day. Claudia got ... before the exam.

Ex. 20 Comment on the use of the underlined adjectives.

1. She was his oldest child. 2. 'Come and shake hands with Mr Carey, Sally.' He turned to Philip. 'Isn't she enormous? She's my eldest. How old are you, Sally?' 'Fifteen, father, come next June.' 3. Marie climbed hastily into the nearest compartment and was lost to sight. 4. Next morning Mildred was sulky and taciturn. 5. No further news had come. 6. In the further corner sat Philbric, talking in Welsh to a shady-looking old man. 7. The last laugh died away. 8. The latest news was very important. 9. The wooden bridge was nearly three quarters of a mile across. 10. His wooden face creased into a smile and then returned to its former unexpressiveness. 11. She sent him a gold cigarette case. 12. The sand was golden yellow as if the sun struck through the water all the way to the bottom of the sea.

Ex. 21 Use the appropriate form of the adjective given in brackets.

1. His age was fifty; he looked several years (old). 2. "It is one of his worse days, Mother," said the (old) son. 3. The (old) brother came from the stable and Bill stood still, hands clenched. 4. Jim was (old) by only four years but already there was gray in his hair and deep lines in his face. 5. Uncle Charles and Dante clapped. They were (old) than his father and mother but Uncle Charles was (old) than Dante. 6. Eleanor went downstairs to the dining-room where her husband, his parents and his three (old) children were assembled for luncheon.

Ex. 23 Make up sentences according to the example.

Example: No sooner he (arrive) home ... he fell ill. – *No sooner **had** he arrived*

*home **than** he fell ill.*

Hardly he (arrive) home ... he wanted to leave. – *Hardly **had** he arrived home*

***when** he wanted to leave.*

1. No sooner she (receive) the money ... she went shopping. 2. No sooner he (open) the door ... he felt the smell of gas. 3. Hardly they (come) into the house ... the rain started. 4. No sooner he (eat) the first course ... the telephone rang. 5. Hardly she (knock) at the door ... he opened it. 6. Hardly the sun (rise)... they started off. 7. No sooner he (read) the newspaper article ... he phoned her. 8. Hardly she (buy) a car ... she got into an accident. 9. No sooner he (look) at the title ... he realized that it was the book he had wanted for such a long time. 10. Hardly the meeting (begin)... the participants decided to re-elect the committee.

Ex. 24 Rewrite the following sentences without changing the meaning of the original sentence.

1. That was the best film I have ever seen. I 2. Peter is the best swimmer in our class. No one 3. This car doesn't cause as many problems as the old one did. This car causes 4. There is no mountain in the world higher than Everest. Everest 5. Alan succeeded in his university exams. (was)... 6. Their cultural values aren't the same as ours. (from) 7. I speak English better than you do. You don't 8. Despite the difficulty of the questions, Shelly passed her exam. Although 9. We found the late night film terrifying. We were 10. America takes pride in its skyscrapers. (of) 11. He asked me to take responsibility for the project. (to be)

Ex. 25 Use "like" or "as".

1. He died ... he lived, fighting. 2. Being in love is ... an illness. 3. It's mended, ... you can see. 4. In Paris, ... in Rome, traffic is heavy. 5. His eyes are ... knives. 6. My brother isn't at all ... me. 7. She left ... she came, silently. 8. You're shy, ... me. 9. Your smile is ... your sister's. 10. ... I said, you are too late.

Much etc. with comparatives

Before comparatives we can use much, far, very much, a little, a bit, a lot/lots, any,

no, even.

He's *much/far* older than her.

I feel *a little/a bit* better.

These grapes are *a lot* sweeter than the others.

The train/s *no* quicker than the bus/ ...isn't *any* quicker

You look *even* more beautiful than usual.

Ex. 26 Write ten or more sentences comparing some of the things given below. Use

much, far, a little, a bit, even, a lot, no, any.

The Taj Mahal, the Great Pyramid, the White House, a Ferrari, a Ford, a Volvo, the Amazon, the Thames, the Volga, a pen, a typewriter, a computer, a

dog, a cat, a parrot, a horse, living in the country, living in the city, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, Europe, Africa, North America, South America, you, your mother/father.

Ex. 27 Intensify the adjectives in the following sentences.

1. He was shorter than I was, and not more than an inch or two taller than Irene, but his shoulders, neck and wrists were strong. 2. I didn't think it was serious. 3. I want Mrs Lash flown to New Orleans by the fastest means. 4. Clive says there must be about ten blankets on the bed, and with each one you take off he gets colder. 5. Sonny was gayer, more cheerful, and Michael realized what that gaiety meant. 6. "He's not tall, not good looking," he said. I shook my head and said, "It's not important." 7. He brought his project in the simplest way. 8. The dispute grew more violent. 9. It was a large and handsome house, finer than mine. 10. He was the ablest manager among the Master's party. 11. The silence grew oppressive and Piggy held his breath. 12. I told you, doctor, my headache wasn't bad. 13. When I was a boy out here three years ago they were the happiest, jolliest years. 14. "Don't you think it might be wiser if we turned out the light?" said Mr Sniggs. 15. It was one of the happiest afternoons he had ever spent there. 16. Philip grew better. 17. His voice became low. 18. The blood pressure became worse. 19. Jennie was kind to point out that this was what I had just been suggesting. 20. Mary was well aware that Nina would be perfectly willing to discuss the whole matter with her in the frankest way. 21. Our lives, our marriage, our children, are more important than your work.

So and such

We use so before an adjective (without a noun), or an adverb. We use such before (adjective +) noun. a/an comes after such.

She is *so* beautiful.

I wish you wouldn't drive *so* fast.

She is *such* a baby.

You have *such* nice friends.

It was *such* a comfortable chair.

Ex. 28 Put in such and so.

1. The weather was ... cold that all the football matches were cancelled. 2. It was ... hot weather that nobody could do any work. 3. The book was ... boring

that I stopped reading it. 4. It was ... a good film that I went to see it three times. 5. They've got ... a nice house that I always love staying there. 6. And their garden is ... beautiful! 7. His voice is ... pleasant that I could listen to him all day. 8. I don't know why she talks in ... a loud voice.

Ex. 29 Fill in the blanks with so or such.

1. The weather was ... nasty that we decided to stay at home. 2. He drove at ... a high speed that I got frightened. 3. The show was ... amusing that we couldn't help laughing. 4. He was ... shocked that he couldn't say a word. 5. There were ... few participants present that the meeting was cancelled. 6. The girl looked ... sick that the mother called the doctor in. 7. The programme was ... entertaining that nobody wanted to miss it. 8. They made ... brilliant reports that the audience burst out applauding. 9. There were ... many interesting books that he did not know which to choose. 10. I have been staying for ... a long time that I have got a headache now.

Enough, Sufficiently, too

We use *enough* before nouns ("Is there enough bread?") and after adjectives and adverbs.

The house was *comfortable enough* but not luxurious.

We are not in a *strong enough* financial position to cut taxes.

I haven't got big *enough* nails for the job (= the nails that I've got aren't big enough)

I haven't got *enough* big nails for the job (= I've got some big nails, but not enough).

We use sufficiently before adjectives with a meaning similar to enough. Sufficiently is often preferred in more formal contexts.

The politics of the parties were not *sufficiently* different. (... not different enough)

Things would be easier if we only had a *sufficiently* simple system (...a simple enough system).

Study these sentences with adjective + enough and too + adjective:

The beams have to be *strong enough to support* the roof.

She was *too ashamed to admit* her mistake.

The garage was just about *big enough for two cars to fit in*.

The suitcase was *too small to get* all his clothes in.

We talk about an action in the to-infinitive clauses. If we need to mention the things or people involved, we use for.

In rather formal; English we can use too + adjective + a/an + noun.

I hope you haven't had *too tiring a day*.

1. The problem isn't important. It won't cause us concern. 2. Young adults aren't informal about politics. They shouldn't vote. 3. The company felt confident about its new product. It took on over 100 new employees. 4. The gas leak was serious. The police evacuated the building.

PARTICIPIAL ADJ F_6

Ex.1 Write the correct form of the word in brackets (either -ed or -ing)

The lawyer's arguments were so ... that we were ... of the man's innocence. (convince)

The statistics on child abuse are quiet I am sure many people are ... at the enormity of the problem. (shock)

Seeing hot-air balloons floating over the desert is an ... sight. You'd be ... at the number of people who participate in this sport. (amaze)

The climb up the mountains was so ... that many of the students who were feeling ... by then, asked if we could stop and rest. (tire)

Many Americans were ... by the president's speech which was ... both for its grasp of the problems facing the country today and for its passionate optimism. (impress)

Letting children stay out late is a ... problem. By midnight, many parents already feel a little (worry)

Many foreigners find the Middle East situation The conflicting news reports leave people ... as to what the truth really is. (confuse)

Some say Hitchcock's film *The Birds* was Personally, I was more ... by *Psycho*. (terrify)

Helen was ... with her retirement gift. What a ... idea, buying her a ticket to Paris for all-expenses-paid trip. (delight)

Sue doesn't think slapstick comedy is She is more ... by satire. (amuse)

Personally, I am not ... in stamp collection, although I'm sure it's an ... hobby. (interest)

The dirt and litter on our city streets is Many residents are ... by the fact that the local council won't provide litter-bins here (desgust)

I am so ... with the test results. It's ... to know you've succeeded in a difficult course. (please)

I find Josef very ... , but I'm not ... to his friend at all.(attract)

Roberta's disappearance is Most of his neighbours were ... to rear about it in the papers. (astonish)

Depressing/depressed, embarrassing/embarrassed, exciting/excited,
frightening/frightened, amazing/amazed, exhausting/exhausted,
surprising/surprised.

Ex.3 Choose the right word

1. I don't like horror films. I think they are (frightening/frightened) and (boring/bored). 2. Don't look so (surprising/surprised). Of course, it was a (surprising/surprised) decision but we had no other way out. 3. It was a (tiring/tired) journey. I wish I hadn't had it. I feel completely (exhausted/exhausting) after it. 4. The football match was (disappointing/disappointed). Our team lost the game and we left the stadium quite (disappointing/disappointed). 5. He can't remember his pupils' names. It seemed funny at first, but now it is rather (embarrassing/embarrassed). 6. So far as Mrs. Brown was concerned, she didn't seem to be in the least (embarrassing/embarrassed). 7. He didn't come and she looked rather (worrying/worried). 8. The rise in crime is (depressing/depressed). 9. The pictures made a (depressing /depressed) impression on him. 10 She is not (satisfying/satisfied) with her position.

LINKING VERBS + ADJECTIVES

The little boy seems very frightened. Alcohol is forbidden to people under 18. A linking verb connects a subject and a complement. The complement describes the subject, not the verb. Many adjectives are used as complements. Below is a list of verbs that can take adjectives as complements, with examples of typical complements in brackets.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Be (happy) | Prove (difficult) | Become (suspicious) |
| Appear (upset) | Seem (satisfied) | Come (true) |
| Feel (tired) | Smell (nice) | Fall (silent) |
| Look (young) | Stay (calm) | Get (dark) |
| Taste (sweet) | Grow (old) | Remain (silent) |
| Turn (blue) | Sound (nice) | Keep (quiet) |
| Go (red) | | |

She is happy. This soup tastes salty. Sally went red.

EXERCISES

Ex.1 Choose the word that is most appropriate to the verb in each sentence.

While the teacher lectured him on bad behavior the pupil remained
(silently, silent, violent)

1. The biblical story of Samson is ... (popular, familiar, similar) with children.
2. The young woman turned ... (deep, pale, light) when she realized the stranger beside her was holding a gun.
3. You look (tired, shocked, exhausted) Have you been ... (awake, alive, asleep) all night?
4. The soldiers kept absolutely ... (tranquil, still, small) until the enemy patrol had past.
5. Students often feel ... (dubious, furious, nervous) before examinations.
6. The fish smells ... (disturbing, disgusting, distressing). Perhaps it's bad.
7. The capital was cut off by heavy snowstorms. It was ... (impossible, improbable, insensible) to enter the city)
8. It's ... (immoral, illegal, unnatural) to drive at 110 kph on

ADJECTIVES WITHOUT NOUNS

We can use The + adjective to talk about some social groups.

The young, the poor, the old, the rich, the sick, the disabled, the handicapped,
the blind, the deaf, the mentally ill, the homeless, the unemployed, the dead.

These expressions are plural: the blind means blind people.

I am collecting money for the blind.

Do you know the blind person next door? (not the blind next door)

I met a blind man on the train (not a blind)

We can't use all adjectives in this way: we don't normally talk about the foreign, the greedy.

For more information see the topic "Substantivized Adjectives" in Part II.

EXERCISES

Ex. 1 Complete the sentences with expressions from the box.

The blind (twice), the living (twice), the poor (twice), the dead, the old, the rich (twice), the young (twice).

1. In the country of ... the one-eyed man is King.
2. Love, like youth, is wasted on
3. When the rich make war on each other, it's ... who die.
4. It's all that ... can do for ... , to shock them and keep them up to date.
5. "Let me tell you about They are different from you and me." "Yes, they have more money."
6. We owe respect to the dead; to ... we owe only truth.
7. ... have more children, but ... have more relatives.
8. Pray for ... and fight like hell for
9. Does it matter: - losing your sight? There's such splendid work for ... ; and people will always be kind, as you sit on the terrace remembering and turning your face to the light.

The can be used in the same way with national adjectives ending in -ch, -sh:
the Dutch, the Spanish, the Welsh

and can be used similarly with national adjectives ending in -se, -ss
the Burmese, the Chinese, the Swiss

though it is just possible for these to have a singular meaning.

The + adjective can occasionally have a singular meaning:

the accused (person), the unexpected (thing)

Ex. 3 Fill in appropriate articles before substantivized adjectives where necessary.

1. She was twenty-four. Her skin was pale with a touch of ... green.
2. She had dressed carefully — the dress matching the tone of her skin seemed to emphasize ... green of her eyes.
3. Fanny Price coloured. The blood under her unhealthy skin seemed to be.... strange purple.
4. The sky was ... light, radiant blue, but, although it was only early afternoon, a mist was creeping on to the brilliant grass.
5. His eyes were large and blue, but ... blue was very pale, and they looked rather tired already.
6. I have nice hair. It is black — ... real black, not ... dark brown.
7. The sun in the west was a drop of ... burning gold that slid nearer and nearer the sill of the world.
8. I enjoyed the sensation of sitting quietly beside her and looking at ... pale gold of her hair and ... pale gold of her skin.
9. Ralph ignored Jack's question. He pointed to the touch of ... yellow above the sea.
10. There was a scent of honey from the lime trees in flower, and in the sky ... blue was beautiful, with a few white clouds which looked and perhaps tasted like lemon ice.
11. He himself had always liked ... French, feeling at home with their wit, their taste, their cooking.
12. He's ... Swiss, I believe.
13. I thought he was ... Turkey as he spoke ...fluent Turkish.
14. You can't be a captain because you don't know ... Italian well enough.
15. I only write about what a beautiful place we live in

and how brave ... Italians are. 16. ... Swiss are a very intelligent race and keenly alive to architectural beauty. 17. At dinner I ate very quickly and left for the villa where ... British had their hospital. 18. I was obviously ... German in Italian uniform. 19. You don't understand ... German, do you? 20. She wasn't ... Swede, like her husband. 21. It would be better to be in the study hall than out in ... cold. 22. You're too brave. Nothing ever happens to ... brave. The coward dies a thousand deaths, ... brave but one. 23. It was always your ambition to be a nurse and help ... sick ever since you were a little child, wasn't it? 24. Philip learned how little there was in common between ... poor and classes above them. 25. Old Jolyon sighed; he had an insatiable appetite for ... young. 26. We'll be getting to Twelve Oaks in a little bit, and every man there, ... old and ... young, wanting to know about the horses.

b) Use the compound adjectives to complete the sentences below.

Compound adj

1. The marathon is a ... race. 2. The young math teacher is rather ..., don't you think? 3. The gate to our underground car park is ... 4. Details on missile sites are usually kept ... by governments. 5. Many people prefer to eat ... cakes rather than those you buy in supermarkets. 6. Although they are fashionable, ... shoes are not good for the spine. 7. The newspapers reported the ... murder of an old lady. 8. The Hilton is considered to be a ... hotel. 9. Helen has unusual taste – she wears ... shirts with orange trousers. 10. Mark is ... and has difficulty using the desks at the university because the table is on the right-hand side.

Ex.2 Describe the following. Use the word bank of adjectives:

Objects: convenient, comfortable, ultra-modern, practical, antique, air-conditioned, built-in, spacious, useful, well-located.

Clothes: modern, old-fashioned, tight-fitting, loose, elegant, casual, multi-coloured, roll-necked, leather, cotton, striped, checked, dark/deep red, pale/light brown, brand-new, warm.

People: tall, short, middle-aged, young, good-looking, intelligent, sensitive, polite, overweight, slim, dark-haired, sun-tanned, charming, loyal, beautiful.

School: progressive, traditional, secular, vocational, democratic, comprehensive, dreadful.

Trip: exciting, terrifying, memorable, unusual, fascinating, exhilarating, mountainous, awesome/ rugged/tropical, exotic.