

Farther/Farthest and Further/Furthest

Both forms (**Farther/Farthest** and **Further/Furthest**) can be used for distances.

Examples:

- (a) New York is farther/further than Lincoln or Selby.
- (b) New York is the farthest/furthest town.

Further is usually used with abstract nouns to mean additional/extra.

Example: No further action is needed in this matter.

Furthest can also be used with abstract nouns.

Examples:

- (a) This was the furthest point they reached in their discussion.
- (b) This was the furthest concession he would make.

Elder/Eldest and Older/Oldest

Elder/eldest are chiefly used for comparisons within a family. They imply seniority rather than age. **Elder** and **eldest** are used for persons, while **older** and **oldest** are used for persons as well as for things. **Elder** is not used with 'than', it takes 'to'. **Older/Oldest** is used for age.

Examples:

- (a) Ram is my elder brother.
- (b) This is the oldest college in our city.

Later/Latest/Latter/Last

Later and **Latest** are used with reference to time. **Latter** and **last** is used with reference to order. **Latest** refers to new (last up to now) or very recent things. **Last** means final or no new after that. In talking about events, (inventions), productions etc., we used latest. **Latter** is used for comparison of two in order, for more than two we use **last**.

Examples:

- (a) He came later than Ram.
- (b) He came in the last.
- (c) Between Ram and Shyam, the latter is more intelligent.

(d) Of iron and silver, the latter is known as white metal.

(e) This is the latest fashion.

(f) Lord Mountbatten was the last Governor General of India.

Many/Much (adjectives and pronouns)

Many (adjective) is used before countable nouns.

Much (adjective) is used before uncountable nouns.

Examples:

- (a) She didn't buy many books.
- (b) We haven't much sugar.

The comparative and superlative of **much** and **many** are same **more** and **most**.

Less, Fewer and Lesser: When we talk about countable things, we use the word **fewer**; when we talk about uncountable we use the word **less**. She had fewer chores, but she also had less energy.

We do, however, definitely use less when referring to statistical or numerical expressions:

Examples:

- (a) It's less than fifty kilometers to Delhi.
- (b) He's less than five feet tall.

Lesser means less important.

Examples:

- (a) Many lesser speakers also came to speak.
- (b) Many lesser leaders were present in the function.

Taller than I/me, Which is correct?

Examples: He is taller than I.

OR

He is taller than me.

The correct answer is "taller than I."

Verbal / Oral

Oral communication is spoken rather than written.

- (a)... the written and oral traditions of ancient cultures.
- (b)...an oral agreement.



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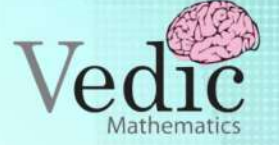
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We use **oral** to indicate that something is done with a person's mouth or relates to a person's mouth.

(a)...antibiotic tablets taken orally.

Verbal: We use **verbal** also to indicate that something is expressed in speech rather than in writing or action.

Examples:

(a) They were jostled and subjected to a torrent of verbal abuse...

(b) We have a verbal agreement with her...

We use **verbal** to indicate that something is connected with words and the use of words.

Example: The test has scores for verbal skills, mathematical skills, and abstract reasoning skills....

In English Grammar, verbal means relating to a verb.

Example : ...a verbal noun.

Due to / Owing to

Due to can be used as a complement of the verb. **Due to** means 'as a result of while owing to means because of.

Examples:

(a) He failed due to his negligence.

(b) Owing to his negligence he failed.

(c) The accident was due to carelessness.

(d) Owing to carelessness, there was an accident.

Due to is also used after a noun and to introduce an adjectival construction as per following:

Examples:

(a) Mistakes due to carelessness may have serious consequences.

(b) A power failure due to a fault in the cable, brought all the machinery to standstill.

Near / Next

The adjective **near** can be used like a preposition with or without to. To is not normally used when we talk about physical closeness.

Example: He lives near the railway station.

Next is used to talk about time or series, it means 'after this'.

Example: She got off at the next stop.

Some/Any

Some is used normally in affirmative with countables and uncountables as well. In interrogative sentences '**some**' is used for request or offer or command and for which answer in affirmation is expected.

Examples:

(a) I shall buy some books. (**Countables**)

(b) They have purchased some fruits. (**Uncountables**)

(c) Will you give me some milk? (**Request**)

Any is normally used in negative and interrogative sentences for countables and uncountables as well.

Examples:

(a) I don't have any pen.

(b) Have you any novel?

Any can also be used in affirmative sentences after 'if.

Example: Do you have any parrot in your residence?

Each/Every/Either/Neither

Each/Every/Either/Neither always takes singular noun and singular verb.

If 'every' is followed by any plural adjective of number (two, three, four etc.), then it takes plural noun.

Examples:

(a) She takes medicine every three hours.

(b) He visits here every two months.

Each/Every

Each and **Every** are similar in meaning. **Each** is used for two and more than two while **every** is always used for more than two.

Examples:

(a) Each of the two girls gets a prize.

(b) Each of the ten students gets a prize.



- (c) Every student gets a prize.
(d) Every candidate was given a certificate.
Each – Two and more than two.
Every – More than two.

Little/A little/The little

Little is used for uncountables. **Little** means 'hardly any'. It has negative meaning (almost nothing). A little means 'some though not much'. It has positive meaning. The **little** means 'not much but all that is'. It also has positive meaning.

Use of little 'hardly any':

Example: He takes little interest in parental business.
(He has hardly any or no interest)

A little: Not much but some.

Example: We have a little hope of his recovery. (He may recover.)

The little: Not much but all there is

Example: The little money she had, was also spent on medicines. (He had no money now.)

Few/A Few/The Few

Few is used for countables. Few means 'hardly any'. It has a negative meaning. A few means 'not many'. It has a positive meaning. The few means 'not many but all there are'. It also has positive meaning.

1. Use of 'Few': Means 'Hardly any'

Example: Few people are fully happy. (Hardly any people)

2. Use of 'A few': means 'not many'

Example: A few person can write correct English.

3. Use of 'The few' means 'not many but all there are

Example: The few utensils she had, all taken by the thief. (Now she has no utensils.)

Rules of Use of Adjectives

1. Progressive comparisons: The comparative form of an adjective can also be used to describe a characteristic which is becoming progressively more pronounced.

Examples:

- (1) The waves are growing rougher and rougher.
(2) The sounds became fainter and fainter.

In informal English, the verb **to get** is often used in this type of construction

Examples:

- (a) The noise is getting louder and louder.
(b) The lights got brighter and brighter.

2. While comparing an object with others, it is necessary to exclude it from the comparison.

Examples:

- (a) Iron is harder than any metal. (**Incorrect**)
Iron is harder than any other metal. (**Correct**)
(b) This building is larger than any building in the town. (**Incorrect**)
This building is larger than any other building in the town. (**Correct**)

3. Two comparative adjectives are not normally used in a sentence.

Examples:

- (a) He is more wiser than you. (**Incorrect**)
He is wiser than you. (**Correct**)
(b) I am comparatively better today. (**Incorrect**)
I am better today. (**Correct**)
I am comparatively well today. (**Correct**)

If one adjective is in comparative degree the other should be in positive. We should also not use any comparative degree adjective with the word 'comparatively'.

But we can use rather with the adjective of comparative degree

Example: She is rather better today.



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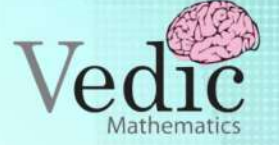
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4. Some comparative degree adjectives, ending in 'or' are followed by the preposition 'to' instead of 'than'. Such adjectives are; senior, junior, posterior, superior, inferior, anterior. All these adjectives are borrowed from Latin. Likewise; Elder, prefer and preferable also take preposition 'to' with them.

Examples:

- (a) He is superior to me.
- (b) She is junior to me.
- (c) Ram is senior to Shyam.
- (d) He came prior to me.

Major, Minor, exterior, interior, outer, lower, ulterior, upper, former, inner are some words that resemble with comparative degree adjectives are no comparatives.

5. When we compare two qualities in the same person or thing we should not use comparatives in 'er', instead we should use 'more'.

Examples:

- (a) Ram is more strong than intelligent.
(not stronger)
- (b) She is more clever than intelligent.
(not cleverer)

6. Superlative forms of adjectives: The superlative form of an adjective is used to describe something which possesses a characteristic in the greatest degree.

Example:

- (a) Dhiraj is the youngest boy in our class.
- (b) She is the best actress I have ever seen.

7. The superlative form preceded by 'the': The superlative forms of adjectives are usually preceded by the, and followed by the nouns they modify.

Examples:

- (a) Shyam is the tallest boy in the class.
- (b) Nisha is the fastest runner of the team.

8. The comparison of one or more things with a group
When one or more things are compared with a group

to which they do not belong, the comparative form of an adjective is normally used.

Example: The girls are cleverer than the boys.

The girls are being compared with **the boys**, a group to which they do not belong. Therefore, the comparative form **cleverer** is used.

In contrast, when one or more things are compared with members of a group to which they belong, the superlative form of an adjective is normally used.

Example: Ashok is the youngest of all the boys in the class.

In this example, Ashok is being compared with members of the group identified as **all the boys** in the class. This is a group to which he belongs. Therefore, the superlative form **youngest** is used.

9. Logical Comparison: While making comparisons, care must be taken, particularly in formal English, to ensure that the comparisons are logical and that the appropriate objects are in fact being compared.

Example: Life in the country is different from the city.
(Incorrect)

The sentence is logically incorrect, because it compares **life in the country** to the **city**. In order to be logically correct, the sentence must be changed so that similar types of things are being compared.

Example: Life in the country is different from life in the city. (Correct)

This sentence is logically correct, since it compares **life in the country** to **life in the city**.

10. Comparative degree of adjectives is used for the comparison of two, for more than two we should use the superlative. Likewise we should not use superlative for comparing two objects.

Examples:

- (a) Which is better; tea, coffee or milk? (Incorrect)

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Which is the best; tea, coffee or milk? (Correct)

(b) He is the best of the two students. (Incorrect)

He is the better of the two students. (Correct)

11. Normally two superlatives are not used in a sentence.

Example:

(a) He is the most strongest of all. (Incorrect)

He is the strongest of all. (Correct)

12. We should also not use 'other' or 'else' with superlatives.

Examples:

(a) She is the most beautiful of all girls. (not all other girls)

(b) He is the strongest of all students.

(not all other students)

13. When more than one adjectives are connected with 'and', they should be either in comparative or in superlative degree.

Example:

(a) Ram is wiser and stronger than Shyam. (Correct)

(b) Ram is wise and stronger than Shyam. (Incorrect)

14. Some adjectives expressing qualities of highest order or for their extreme meanings can't be compared. Such adjectives are: Absolute, Perfect, Full, Complete, Entire, Whole, Chief, Extreme, Unique, Universal, Circular, Square, Round, Ideal, Flat, Impossible etc.

A thing can't be more round, more square.

Though we can find using full, fuller, fullest and perfect, more perfect, most perfect also most impossible, by some writers.

15. Note the structure of the following sentences: One of.....if not Superlative.....

Examples:

(a) He is one of the greatest writers, if not the greatest writer.

(b) This is one of the largest buildings, if not the largest in the world.

Use plural noun in first part and singular noun in second part of the sentence One of the + superlative + plural noun if not me superlative + singular

16. Note the following structure also.

Examples:

(a) She runs as fast as, if not faster than Shyam.

(b) He is as good as if not better than you.

(c) The house is as large as if not larger than that.

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 20) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the number of the part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5).

1. "She can't sing (1)/ much than (2)/four songs at (3)/ a stretch", he informed. (4)/ No error (5)

2. It is well known (1)/that Mrs. Indira Gandhi (2)/ was the first statesperson (3)/ of her time. (4)/ No error (5)

3. According to the Twelfth (1)/ Five Year Plan, India should (2)/ invest one trillion dollars (3)/ in infrastructure projects. (4)/ No error (5)

4. As the price of (1)/gold is higher (2)/you should keep (3)/your jewellery in a locker. (4)/ No error (5)

5. In the high strung life (1)/ of over crowded metros (2)/ there is a constantly tug of war (3)/ over space and resources. (4)/ No error (5)



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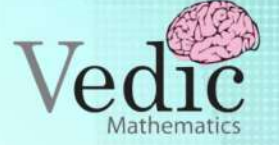
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6. There were only two (1)/ warriors but each and every (2)/ warrior was equal (3)/ to six persons. (4)/ No error (5)

7. Whole the chapter (1)/ of this grammar book is full of errors (2)/ that shows the (3)/ carelessness of the proof reader. (4)/ No error (5)

8. Can we rely (1)/ on this agency (2)/ for the last news (3)/ of the day? (4)/ No Error (5)

9. Ram is junior than (1)/ Shyam and (2)/ Ram is older (3)/ than Ganesh. (4)/ No error (5)

10. The militants (1)/ entered the palace (2)/ from the outmost gate (3)/ with guns hidden in their clothes. (4)/ No error (5)

11. Kolkata is further (1)/ from Alwar (2)/ than Jaipur (3)/ the capital of Rajasthan. (4)/ No error (5)

12. Ramesh is smarter (1)/ enough to get (2)/ selected for this (3)/ post, without any recommendations. (4)/ No error (5)

13. He said, "Priyanka (1)/ is the most unique (2)/ singer of (3)/ our college. (4)/ No error (5)

14. This shirt is (1)/ comparatively better (2)/ than that (3)/ we saw in corner shop yesterday. (4)/ No error (5)

15. Everyone was surprised to note (1)/ that Rahim married a girl (2)/ who was more beautiful and more tall (3)/ than he. (4)/ No error (5)

16. A lots of books (1)/ on English grammar are (2)/ available here but (3)/ this one is the best. (4)/ No error (5)

17. I told her (1)/ that it would be all (2)/ the more better (3)/ if she herself talked to the groom. (4)/ No error (5)

18. She does not have (1)/ some money to buy (2)/ a new refrigerator (3)/ so she is worried. (4)/ No error (5)

19. Now-a-days (1)/ the weather (2)/ is getting more cold (3)/ and colder. (4)/ No error (5)

20. All the books (1)/ were indeed interesting (2)/ but that one was (3)/ the more interesting. (4)/ No Error (5)

