Indian School Nizwa

Class-IV, **English**
Degrees of Comparison

Name:		Class: **IV**	Sec:

Degrees of Comparison

An **adjective** of quality changes its form when it is used to compare one noun with another.

It is called the degree of comparison of an adjective.

There are three degrees of comparison.

1) The Positive Degree
2) The Comparative Degree
3) The Superlative Degree

Positive Degree

The positive degree is used to refer to one object, person or place without making any comparisons.
Eg: She has a ***big*** house.

Comparative Degree

The comparative Degree refers to a greater degree of adjective as compared to the positive degree.
It is used to compare two objects, people or places.
Eg: Her house is *bigger than* my house.

Superlative Degree

The superlative degree refers to the greatest degree of adjective.
It is used to compare more than two objects, people or places.
Eg: His house is *the biggest* of all.

We add **–er** and **–est** to most one or two syllable words that end in consonants.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
dull	duller	dullest
sweet	sweeter	Sweetest
thick	thicker	thickest
bright	brighter	brightest
clean	cleaner	cleanest

When the positive ends in **–e**, we add only **–r** and –**st** to the adjective.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
large	larger	largest
simple	simpler	simplest
nice	nicer	nicest
sore	sorer	sorest
wise	wiser	wisest

When the positive ends in consonant **+y**, we drop the **–y** and add **–ier** and **–iest**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
lucky	luckier	luckiest
busy	busier	Busiest
happy	happier	happiest
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest
handy	handier	handiest

When the positive ends in vowel **+ y**, we add **–er** and **–est** to the adjective.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Grey	greyer	greyest

When the positive is a word of one syllable that ends in vowel + consonant, we double the ending consonant and then add **–er** and **–est**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Red	redder	reddest
Hot	hotter	Hottest
Thin	thinner	Thinnest
Fat	fatter	fattest
Full	fuller	fullest

When the positive is long, i.e. is a word of two or more syllables, we add more and most before the adjective to form comparative and superlative degree.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Useful	More useful	Most useful
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful
Difficult	More difficult	Most difficult
interesting	More interesting	Most interesting
important	More important	Most important

There are some adjectives that do not form to comparatives and superlatives from their positives. They have irregular degrees of comparison.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Good	better	best
Much/many	more	Most
Old	Older/elder	Oldest/eldest
Little	less	Least
Far	Farther/further	Farthest/furthest
Bad	worse	worst

We use ***than*** with a comparative degree, use ***the*** with a superlative degree.

Eg: Mohan is shorter than Ganesh.
Ahmed is the shortest girl in her class.

Exercise

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjectives given in brackets.

1. No one runs _____ than a cheetah. (fast)
2. They needed a _____ rope to play tug of war. (strong)
3. Neil makes the _____ puppets in this market. (beautiful)
4. The table was_____ than she had expected. (heavy)
5. The architect wanted to design the _____ building in the town. (good)
6. Your bag is _____ than mine.(light)