

**Superfluous** means **'more than what is needed'**. Generally we use such expressions in our sentences because we are habitual of translating them from Hindi to English. For example we say 'return back' even when we know that 'return' means 'to come back' or 'go back'.

**Let us see all about superfluous one by one.**

We must not use **'not'** after the following words as the use of 'not' makes the sentence superfluous. The given words comprise 'not' in their meaning and hence the use of 'not' makes them superfluous.

**Until, Unless, Rarely, Hardly, Scarcely, Seldom, Barely, Forbid, Deny, Prohibit, Without, But for (means 'without'), Lest.**

- Eg:-**
1. He did not deny that he had not stolen my watch. (Change 'not stolen' into 'stolen')
  2. Unless you will not work hard, you will not succeed. ('will not work' into 'work')
  3. Not until the train gets the signal, will it leave the platform. (✓) (Here 'Not' at the starting of the sentence is of the 2nd part of the sentence and due to negative introductory, the 2nd part of the sentence is in inversion. (See chapter Inversion))

We must not use **'back'** after the following words as the use of 'back' makes the sentence superfluous. The meaning of the given words already comprises 'back'.

**Recede, Return, Retract, Retreat, Withdraw, Recall, Reimburse.**

- Eg:-**
1. He did not return back my watch. (Remove 'back')
  2. The water of the river receded back after the flood. (Remove 'back')
  3. Maruti recalled back many cars due to a technical fault in the new model. (Remove 'back')

We must not use **'again'** after the following words as the use of 'again' makes the sentence superfluous. 'Re' means 'again'.

**Repeat, Recapitulate, Recall, Reborn, Rebuilt.**

- Eg:-**
1. I recapitulated the lessons again before taking the exam. (Remove 'again')
  2. Ram was reborn again as Krishna in the Dwapar yug. (Remove 'again')
  3. The bridge was rebuilt again after the earthquake had devastated the whole town. (Remove 'again')

We must not use **'more or most'** with the following adjectives as the use of 'more' or 'most' makes the sentence superfluous. The meaning of the following adjectives is complete in their real sense and hence cannot be used in comparative and superlative degrees.

**Interior, Exterior, Utterior, Major, Minor, Empty, Excellent, Circular, Extreme, Chief, Entire, Complete, Perfect, Final, Last, Unique, Universal, Round, Square, Triangular, Eternal, Everlasting, Ideal, Absolute, Impossible, Supreme.**

- Eg:-** 1. This is a more unique feature of this flora. (Remove 'more')
2. Corruption is a more universal problem. (Remove 'more')
3. You have done the most excellent piece of work. (Remove 'the most' and add 'an')

*When we use two of the following words together, the sentence becomes superfluous as all mean the same.*

**Suppose, If, In case, Would that, Should** (When 'should' means 'if')

- Eg:-** 1. Suppose if I do not come, what will you do? (Remove either 'suppose' or 'if')
2. Should you if need my help, do let me know. (Remove 'if')

*Two Comparative or two Superlative Degrees cannot come together as the sentence will become superfluous.*

- Eg:-** 1. He is more faster than his brother. (Remove 'more')
2. This is the most best example of evolution. (Remove 'most')

*There are many such words that become superfluous when we add a subsequent word of more or less the same meaning.*

WORD/PHRASE	ADDITIONAL WORD THAT MAKES IT SUPERFLUOUS
May/Might	possibly/likely to/probably
Can/Could	able to/capable of
7 p.m./9.30 p.m. etc	evening
8 a.m./11 a.m. etc	morning
Despite	of
Cousin	sister/brother
Consensus	opinion
Consort/spouse	husband/wife
Sibling	brother/sister
During	the period/while
Await	for
Kindly	please
Request	please/kindly
Rain cats and dogs	like
Bag and baggage	with
Tooth and nail	with
Flee	away
Coward	man/boy etc ('Coward' is a noun hence no Noun will follow it)
Twins/ Triplet etc	two/ three
Friend	mutual (use word 'common') ('Mutual friend' that you see on facebook is wrong English)
Agreement	mutual
Relatively/Comparatively	better/faster etc. (use a positive degree and not a comparative degree)
The reason why	because
Blunder	big/huge (even 'slight/small' etc too cannot be used with 'blunder' as they will mean the opposite)
Tell/Told	to (See Preposition. Certain 'verbs' are followed by 'to' when an object follows and certain verbs do not)
On the contrary	but
Enter	into (Except when it means 'to make oneself a party to')



Exceed	more than
Related to/concerned with	regarding
Breeze	light (Do not use 'strong breeze' as 'breeze' means 'light, gentle wind')
Come across	with
Come across	suddenly
Universally	every where/ubiquitous/omnipresent/everywhere
Approach	near
Throughout	whole
Illustrate	about
The thing or any other noun	What ('What' is not preceded by any antecedent)
Sufficient	enough
Quite	all/completely
Period	of time
Funeral	service
Enough	very
Comprise	of (In active voice)
Family	member
Reception	party

### Correct the following sentences

- (A) Shyam Yadav, being a philanthropist/ (B) and altruist,/(C)he is liked by all the people of his village./ (D) No error.
- (A) Those people who do not perform their duty,/(B) they should not make/(C) a hue and cry for their rights/(D) No error.
- (A) When I was going to market,/(B) I suddenly came across/(C) my childhood friend/(D) No error.
- (A) We usually come across with/(B) difficulties but we have to/(C) cope with them./ (D) No error.
- (A) A cool light breeze was blowing/(B) and it soon put the child/(C) to sleep./ (D) No error.
- (A) Do you have sufficient/(B) enough money to buy/(C) this dress ?/(D) No error.
- (A) When we entered into/(B) the hall, everyone stood up/(C) and gave us a warm welcome./ (D) No error.
- (A) To our amazement/(B) the speed of the car increased/(C)when it approached near the toll tax counter./ (D) No error.
- (A) The essay on women empowerment/ (B) should not exceed/(C) more than five hundred words./ (D) No error.
- (A) Corruption is such a problem/(B) that is found/(C) universally everywhere/(D) No error.
- (A) Suppose if the driver doesn't come,/ (B) how shall/(C) we go home?/(D) No error.
- (A) The rain kept pouring/(B) throughout the/(C) whole day./ (D) No error.
- (A) It rained/(B) like cats and dogs/(C) during the weekends and we had to stay indoors./ (D) No error.
- (A) When Alexander saw that/(B) his army was exhausted/(C) he decided to retreat back./ (D) No error.
- (A) The thing what/(B) attracted me towards her/(C) was her simplicity./ (D) No error.
- (A) The judge dismissed the case because/(B) the plaintiff was hell bent on/(C)withdrawing back his complaint./ (D) No error.

17. (A) The robbers forbade the passengers/ (B) not to make/ (C) a noise./ (D) No error.
18. (A) He left India/ (B) with bag and baggage/ (C) for good./ (D) No error.
19. (A) Niharika, my cousin sister/ (B) will contest the next/ (C) Lok Sabha election./ (D) No error.
20. (A) We will organize a blood donation camp/ (B) at 8 a.m./ (C) tomorrow morning./ (D) No error.
21. (A) We cannot illustrate about/ (B) the process of evolution/ (C) as any such process involves thousands of years/ (D) No error.
22. (A) I didn't mean to insult you/ (B) but on the contrary/ (C) I had come here to congratulate you./ (D) No error.
23. (A) No consensus opinion/ (B) could be reached/ (C) on women's reservation bill./ (D) No error.
24. (A) The magistrate warned the witness,/ (B) "Once your statement is recorded,/ (C) you cannot retract back from it."/ (D) No error.
25. (A) Despite of being a meritorious student/ (B) he failed to prove/ (C) his mettle./ (D) No error.
26. (A) Any act of terrorism/ (B) is universally condemned / (C) by all./ (D) No error.
27. (A) Time and opportunity, once lost,/ (B) never/ (C) return back./ (D) No error.
28. (A) She looked very elegant and presentable enough/ (B) to get the job/ (C) of air hostess very easily./ (D) No error.
29. (A) She said,/ (B) "Delhi is comparatively/ (C) Colder than Mumbai."/ (D) No error.
30. (A) The Mughal Empire made/ (B) a big blunder/ (C) by letting the British set up the East India Company./ (D) No error.
31. (A) My English is equally/ (B) as good as/ (C) yours./ (D) No error.
32. (A) He is a coward man/ (B) as he is not able to face/ (C) the ups and downs of life manfully./ (D) No error.
33. (A) No matter how much you spend,/ (B) we will reimburse back/ (C) all your expenditure./ (D) No error.
34. (A) The victim was persuaded/ (D) to recall back what had happened with her/ (C) but she was unable to recollect anything./ (D) No error.
35. (A) The students have already taken the exam/ (B) and the result is being/ (C) awaited for./ (D) No error.
36. (A) The thief fled away/ (B) as the night was dark/ (C) and the roads were deserted with not a single check post placed anywhere./ (D) No error.
37. (A) You are requested to kindly/ (B) submit all the documents/ (C) before the 30th of next month./ (D) No error.
38. (A) She requested the senior executive/ (B) if he could repeat the data/ (C) as she was unable to note them down./ (D) No error.
39. (A) Even after many rounds of talks/ (B) India and Pakistan could not reach at/ (C) a mutual agreement on the issue of Kashmir./ (D) No error.
40. (A) I prefer staying at home/ (B) more than going/ (C) to parties./ (D) No error.
41. (A) A deed of kindness has/ (B) a more everlasting/ (C) effect on every creature living on this planet./ (D) No error.
42. (A) He is / (B) more wiser/ (C) than all his friends./ (D) No error.
43. (A) He has the right/ (B) to receive an annual sum/ (C) out of the income every year./ (D) No error.
44. (A) Before translating the sentence word for word/ (B) it is worth first asking/ (C) Whether it can be literally translated or not./ (D) No error.
45. (A) This cup of steaming coffee/ (B) is too hot to/ (C) drink it./ (D) No error.
46. (A) He was too drunk/ (B) to know/ (C) where he was going to./ (D) No error.
47. (A) You must mend your ways/ (B) lest you should/ (C) not fall in any trap./ (D) No error.
48. (A) The pre-recorded/ (B) statement of the witness/ (C) was produced before the court./ (D) No error.
49. (A) Dr. Radha Krishnan/ (B) was an educated/ (C) man of letters./ (D) No error.
50. (A) His speech was/ (B) vaguely ambiguous as/ (C) we could not understand what was the exact topic of his speech./ (D) No error.



## Answer-key

1. (C)	2. (B)	3. (B)	4. (A)	5. (A)	6. (B)	7. (A)	8. (C)
9. (C)	10. (C)	11. (A)	12. (C)	13. (B)	14. (C)	15. (A)	16. (C)
17. (A)	18. (B)	19. (A)	20. (C)	21. (A)	22. (B)	23. (A)	24. (C)
25. (A)	26. (C)	27. (C)	28. (A)	29. (B)	30. (B)	31. (A)	32. (A)
33. (B)	34. (B)	35. (C)	36. (A)	37. (A)	38. (B)	39. (C)	40. (B)
41. (B)	42. (B)	43. (C)	44. (B)	45. (C)	46. (C)	47. (C)	48. (A)
49. (C)	50. (B)						

## Solution

1. (C) 'He' must be omitted. A pronoun is used in place of a noun and not in addition to a noun.
2. (B) 'They' must be omitted. A pronoun is used in place of a noun and not in addition to a noun.
3. (B) 'Suddenly' should be omitted.
4. (A) 'With' should be omitted.
5. (A) 'Light' must be omitted. 'Breeze' means 'light, gentle wind.'
6. (B) 'Enough' should be omitted. 'sufficient' means 'enough'.
7. (A) 'Into' should be omitted. 'Enter' means 'to come into'.
8. (C) 'Near' must be omitted. 'Toll' and 'tax' mean the same hence remove 'tax'.
9. (C) 'More than' should be omitted. 'Exceed' means 'to be more than'.
10. (C) 'Every where' must be omitted.
11. (A) 'If' must be omitted.
12. (C) 'whole' should be removed.
13. (B) 'like' should be removed.
14. (C) 'Back' must be omitted. 'Retreat' means 'going backward'.
15. (A) 'that' must replace 'what'. 'An antecedent' doesn't come before 'what'.
16. (C) 'Back' must be omitted.
17. (A) 'Not' should be removed.
18. (B) 'with' should be removed.
19. (A) 'Sister' should not be used. 'Cousin sister' is a superfluous expression.
20. (C) 'Morning' should not be used. 'a.m.' refers to 'morning'.
21. (A) 'About' should be removed.
22. (B) 'But' should be removed.
23. (A) 'Opinion' should not be used. 'Consensus opinion' is a superfluous expression.
24. (C) 'back' must be omitted.
25. (A) 'of' should not be used.
26. (C) 'by all' will not be used here. 'Universally is sufficient'.
27. (C) 'back' will be omitted.
28. (A) 'very' must be removed.
29. (B) 'Comparatively' must be removed as 'colder' itself is a comparative degree.
30. (B) 'big' must be omitted. Blunder means 'A big mistake'.
31. (A) 'equally' must be removed. 'as + positive degree + as' is used for comparison.
32. (A) 'Man' must be removed. 'Coward' a noun cannot be followed by another noun.
33. (B) 'Back' will be omitted.
34. (B) 'Back' will be omitted.
35. (C) 'for' will be omitted.
36. (A) 'away' will be omitted. 'fled' means 'to run away'.
37. (A) 'kindly' will be removed. 'request' and 'kindly' mean the same.

- 38.(B) Change 'if he could repeat' into 'to repeat'. Here 'request' should not be followed by 'could' which gives the meaning of 'request' in this statement. We know that 'could' is used for 'formal request' too.
- 39.(C) 'Mutual' will not be used. 'Mutual agreement' is a superfluous expression.
- 40.(B) 'to' must replace 'more than'.
- 41.(B) 'More' must be omitted.
- 42.(B) 'More' must be removed. Double comparative degrees are not used in a sentence.
- 43.(C) 'Every year' will be removed. 'Annual' has been already used here.
- 44.(B) 'First' must be removed.
- 45.(C) 'It' should not be used here. In one sentence both noun 'This cup of steaming coffee' and pronoun 'it' cannot come together.
- 46.(C) 'To' will be omitted.
- 47.(C) 'Not' will be removed.
- 48.(A) 'Pre' will be removed. Recording is something that is 'pre-' (before than).
- 49.(C) 'of letters' will be removed. 'Man of letters' means an educated man.
- 50.(B) 'Vaguely' will be removed as 'ambiguous' and 'vaguely' carry the same meaning i.e. 'unclear'.
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