

### Kinds of Adjectives

There are **Ten** kinds of Adjectives—

**1. Proper Adjectives**—The Adjectives formed from **Proper Nouns** are called Proper Adjectives. As—

**Indian** coast, **French** wine, **American** culture, **English** language, **Shakespearean** plays.

**2. Descriptive or Qualitative Adjectives**—The Adjectives which describe the merits or demerits, shape and size, colour and form, good qualities or bad ones, of a person or a thing are called Qualitative Adjectives. As—

A great man, a beautiful girl, a brave boy, a small toy, a white cow, cold water.

**3. Quantitative Adjectives**—The Adjectives which express the **quantity** (not number) of a thing are called Quantitative Adjectives.

These Adjectives are always applied to **uncountable Nouns** in the **Singular Number**. The Nouns which they qualify can never be in the Plural Number.

These Adjectives are—**Much, little, no, none, some, any, enough, sufficient, all, whole, half, less, a good deal of, a lot of, plenty of, a kilo/pound/ton/quintal, a litre/metre**. As—

1. This is **all** the milk in the cup.
2. There is **enough** sugar for the evening tea.
3. There is **no** bread in the cupboard.
4. There is one **litre** milk in the jug.

**4. Numeral or Numerical Adjectives**—These Adjectives show Number. They are—**One/two/three, etc.; first/second/third, etc.; a, an, many, few, some, several, a few, all, any, a number of, a lot of, a heap of, plenty of**.

These Adjectives are always applied to **Countable things** in both **Singular and Plural Numbers**. Amongst these, those which refer to

definite Numbers (as **one / two / three**. etc. or **I, II, III** etc.) are called Definite Numeral Adjectives, and those which refer to Indefinite Number (as **many, several, few**, etc.) are called Indefinite Numeral Adjectives. As—

1. He has **four** books.
2. He has **one** house.
3. He has **many** books.
4. He has **several** houses.
5. **Five** workers are there.
6. There are **no** workers.
7. **All** workers have gone.

**Note**—The examples given above under Rules No. 3 and 4 above will show that some Adjectives are both Adjective of Quantity and Adjective of Number. They are—**all, some, enough, no, none, more, any, plenty of**, etc. They are common to both. They become **Adjective of Quantity** or **Adjective of Number (Numeral Adjective)** according to their use. If they show quantity, they become **Quantitative**, and if they show Number, they become **Numeral Adjectives**. As—

Quantitative	Numeral
1. He has drunk all the milk	1. He has read all the books.
2. He has drunk some milk.	2. He has read some books.
3. He has no milk.	3. He has no books.
4. He hasn't drunk any milk.	4. He hasn't read any book.
5. He has a lot/plenty of milk.	5. He has a lot/plenty of books.
6. He has enough milk.	6. He has enough books.
7. He has spoilt most of the milk.	7. He has read most of the books.

**5. Demonstrative Adjectives**—The Adjectives which point to some **Person** or **thing** are called **Demonstrative Adjectives**. They are of two types—**Definite Demonstratives** and **Indefinite Demonstratives**. The more common **Definite Demonstratives** are these—

**This, that** (with Singular Noun)

**These, those** (with Plural Noun)

**Any, Such, Some** (with both Numbers according to sense)

**Indefinite Demonstratives** are these—**Any, some, such, other, any other, a certain**, etc.

Here it should be remembered that a Singular Demonstrative should go with a Singular Noun, and a Plural Demonstrative with a Plural Noun. Therefore, we cannot write **this boys** or **these boy**.

The Demonstratives which are common in both Singular and Plural Numbers are these—

a certain book,	certain books
the other book,	the other books
such a boy,	such boys
any man,	any men
the same boy,	the same boys

**6. Distributive Adjectives**—Distributive Adjectives are those that point to Persons or Things Singly or Collectively. They are—**each, every, either, neither**. As—

1. **Each boy** will show his work.
2. **Every man** had gone in time.
3. You can take **either road**, this or that.
4. **Neither road** is safe at this hour.
5. You have to take this medicine **every four hours** (*i.e.*, every period of four hours).
6. **Every four teams** will give a demonstration turn by turn (*i.e.*, in groups of four teams).

**7. Interrogative Adjectives**—Interrogative Adjectives are those that ask Questions. As—**What, which, whose**, etc. As—

1. **Which book** do you want ?
2. **What book** was that ?
3. **Whose book** was that ?

**8. Possessive Adjectives**—Possessive Adjectives show **relationships**. They are—**My, Our,**

**Your, thy, his, her, its, their**. In **Attributive** form they are used before the Nouns they qualify. As—**My book/ books, Your book/ books, Our house/ houses, its wings**.

But the **Possessive Adjectives** can be **Possessive Pronouns** also. In that case they are used **Predicatively**, *i.e.* after the Nouns they qualify. As—

This is **my book**. (Possessive Adjective)

This **book** is **mine** (Possessive Pronoun)

In the same way **mine, ours, yours, theirs, hers** are also **Possessive Pronouns** (not Possessive Adjectives).

**9. Emphasizing Adjectives**—These Adjectives are used to lay **emphasis** on the Noun. They are—**own, very**. As—

1. I saw it with my **own eyes**.
2. This happened before my **very eyes**.
3. His **own book** was lost.
4. He came this **very day**.

**10. Exclamatory Adjectives**—**What** can be used as Exclamatory Adjective also. As—

**What joke** that was !

**What nonsense** this is !

**What a beautiful house** you have !

### Exercise

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. There is none bread on the counter.
2. We shall need 5 litres milk for the party.
3. Whole students are present on the field.
4. A good deal of passengers are waiting for the train.
5. All the fourth books are in our course.
6. All fourth student will come forward.
7. I have no liking for this kinds of games.
8. None of these two alternatives is acceptable to me.
9. All the sides of the coin are rusty.
10. He can read with none of his eyes.
11. He has injured all his hands.
12. Each and every books has been damaged.
13. Each of this book is difficult for me.
14. We are all yours students.
15. This is mine house. Which is your ?
16. He likes very this type of pen.

17. He fought in very my presence.
18. My son own can do it easily.
19. Which a beautiful girl this is !
20. Which a fun was that !

**Hints**—(1) no; (2) 5 litre; (3) All; (4) 'number of' in place of 'good deal of'; (5) four; (6) Every; (7) this kind or these kinds; (8) Neither; (9) Both; (10) neither; (11) both; (12) book; (13) these books; (14) your; (15) my; yours; (16) this very type; (17) my very presence; (18) own son; (19) What; (20) What.

### Position of Adjectives

(a) There are **two ways** of using Adjectives—

(1) **Attributive use**

(2) **Predicative use**

In **Attributive** use Adjectives are placed **before** the Nouns they qualify. As— He is a **good boy**. In **Predicative** use Adjectives are placed **after** the Nouns they qualify. As—The **boy** is good.

The following are the Rules of **Attributive** and **Predicative** use of Adjectives—

1. **Proper and Qualitative Adjectives**—

These Adjectives can be used in both **Attributive** and **Predicative** ways. As—

1. This is an **Indian dish**. (Attributive)
2. This **dish** is **Indian**. (Predicative)
3. This is a **good book** (Attributive)
4. This **book** is **good**. (Predicative)

2. But the following Adjectives are used **only Predicatively** (not attributively)—

**asleep, alive, ill, awake, afraid, ashamed, alike, alone**. As—

1. The **baby** is **asleep**.  
(cannot say—He is an **asleep baby**)
2. The **child** is **awake**.  
(Not **awake child**)
3. **He** is **afraid** of you.
4. **I** am **alone**.
5. Their **appearances** are **alike**.

(b) Adjective is used after Indefinite Pronoun (**something, nothing, anything, somebody, anybody, nobody, no one**). As—

1. He is **somebody important**.

2. Tell me **something interesting**.

3. I have **nothing new** to say.

4. Is there **anything new** ?

(c) If several Adjectives qualify the **same Noun**, it is better to use them **after the Noun**, though their use before the Noun is also not wrong. As—

A man, strong, young and brave.

I love all things—good and useful, colourful and beautiful.

(d) When an Adjective is used for a title, it is used after the Noun. As—Akbar the Great; Alexander the Great, Louis the Pious.

(e) In some phrases the Adjective is used after the Noun. As—

the body politic, heir apparent, the sum total, chairman elect, a God incarnate, Governor-General, from time immemorial.

(f) **Ordinal and Cardinal Numbers**—If Numerical Adjectives of both kinds (**Cardinal** —one / two / three, etc. and **Ordinal** —I / II / III, etc.) are to be used before a Noun, the Ordinal numbers should be used first and Cardinal numbers later. **I, II, III** are read as **First, Second, Third**, etc. As—

1. I have read the **first two** chapters (not **two first** chapters) of this book.
2. The **first five** poems of this book are in our course. (Not **five first**)

(g) If both Numeral and Possessive Adjectives are to be applied to a Noun, the Numeral Adjective should be used before the Possessive Adjective. As—

1. **All my** brothers are well settled.  
(Not **My all** brothers)
2. **Half my** friends have already gone.  
(Not **My half** friends)

(h) **The, this, that** are used after the Numeral Adjective. As—

1. **All the** books (Not **the all** books)
2. **Both the** books, (Not **the both** books)
3. **All this** is wrong. (Not **this all**)

(i) For emphasis the Adjective is used after the Noun. As—

**Things eternal** are more precious than **things temporal**.

- (j) If several Adjectives qualify the same Noun, they should be arranged in such a way that the Adjectives suggesting the basic qualities of the Noun concerned should come nearest to it serially. As—

1. A **dirty, ugly old** man. (Not **old, dirty ugly** man)

2. A **weak, hungry, green** parrot.

- (k) **Determiners/Determinatives**—They are the Adjectives that point to the **Number** or **Quantity** of a Noun, or **limit the range** of a thing by making a definite suggestion towards it (as—**this, that, these, those, my, your**, etc.) These determiners are always placed **before the Noun**. As—

1. There are **five horses** (Not **horses five**)

2. Here is **a cup**.

3. This is **my cup**.

4. I like **this/that cup**.

5. I don't like **these/those boys**.

- (l) If an **Article (a, an, or the)** and an **Adjective** are both to be used for a Noun, the Adjective is placed after the Article. As—

1. He is **a good boy**. (Not **good a boy**)

2. This is **the best book**. (Not **best the book**)

### Exercise

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. This is very beautiful a scene.
2. I bought colourful two sets of curtains.
3. He ashamed felt at his discourteous behaviour.
4. I alone live in such a big house.
5. I found the whole awake family at mid-night.
6. We found interesting nothing there.
7. Have you new anything to tell me about this case ?
8. The Great Akbar was the Emperor of India.
9. Lord Krishna was an incarnate God.

10. This custom has been coming down from immemorial time.

11. The eldest prince is the apparent heir to the throne.

12. He is among the three first position holders.

13. The five last candidates could not be interviewed today.

14. Our all friends are very sincere.

15. His all books have been stolen.

16. The both friends have come.

17. The all books are equally good.

18. A young, well-dressed and smart man is waiting for you.

19. I bought tickets five for Bombay.

20. I always choose best the everything.

**Hints**—(1) a very beautiful; (2) two sets of colourful; (3) felt ashamed; (4) live alone; (5) family awake; (6) nothing interesting; (7) anything new; (8) Akbar the Great; (9) God incarnate (drop 'an'); (10) time immemorial; (11) heir apparent; (12) first three; (13) last five; (14) All our; (15) All his; (16) Both the; (17) All the; (18) well-dressed and smart young man; (19) five tickets; (20) everything the best.

### Degrees of Adjectives

There are **three Degrees** of Adjectives—

**1. Positive Degree**

**2. Comparative Degree**

**3. Superlative Degree**

In the Positive Degree some special quality of a thing is pointed out, **not the Degree** of the special quality. As—

Ram is a **brave** boy.

In the Comparative Degree the **second lower or higher** degree of the quality is suggested, and in it there is a **sense of comparison** of the same quality in two things. As—

Ram is **braver** than Shyam.

In the Superlative Degree **the third and highest** Degree of the quality is suggested, and in it there is the sense of the **highest Degree** of the same quality amongst at least **three or more** things. As—

1. Ram is the **bravest** of these **five** boys.

2. Ram is the **bravest** of **all**.

**Note**—(1) **Absolute Superlative**— Sometimes Superlatives formed by **most** are used in such a way that they do not carry the sense of the highest Degree of comparison; they only lay **emphasis** on the quality concerned. They are called **Absolute Superlatives**. As—

1. That was a **most unfortunate** event.
2. It was a **most moving** speech.

### Formation of Comparative and Superlative Degree Adjectives

#### Signs of Recognition

There are some **signs** of recognition of **Comparative** or **Superlative** Degrees. They are—

##### 1. Comparative Degree—

(a) Comparative Degree Adjectives have generally - **r**, - **er**, - **or** at the end.

##### (b) Superlative Degree—

Superlative Degree Adjectives have generally - **st** or - **est** at the end.

(c) **More** is the sign of Comparative Degree and **Most** of the Superlative Degree.

The following are the ways of making **Comparative** or **Superlative** Degrees from the Positive Degree—

1. Comparative Degree is formed by adding - **er** and Superlative by adding - **est** to the Positive Degree of Adjectives of **one syllable** and some of **more than one syllable** also. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Tall	Taller	Tallest
Sweet	Sweeter	Sweetest
Young	Younger	Youngest
Smart	Smarter	Smartest
Great	Greater	Greatest
Small	Smaller	Smallest

2. In Adjectives ending with **e** in the Positive Degree, Comparative Degree is formed by adding - **r** and Superlative by adding - **st** to the Positive Degree. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Brave	Braver	Bravest
Fine	Finer	Finest
Large	Larger	Largest
Able	Abler	Ablest
Noble	Nobler	Noblest
Wise	Wiser	Wisest

Pure	Purer	Purest
White	Whiter	Whitest
Sane	Saner	Sanest

3. In Adjectives ending with **y** in the Positive Degree and also having a **Consonant** before **y**, the **Comparative** and **Superlative** Degrees are formed by first converting **y** into **i**, and then adding - **er** for the Comparative and - **est** for the Superlative Degree. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Easy	Easier	Easiest
Heavy	Heavier	Heaviest
Happy	Happier	Happiest
Merry	Merrier	Merriest
Wealthy	Wealthier	Wealthiest
Healthy	Healthier	Healthiest
Pretty	Prettier	Prettiest

4. If an Adjective ends with **y** in the Positive Degree, but has a **Vowel** (not a consonant) before **y**, the **y** is **not** converted into **i**, and the comparative and Superlative Degrees are formed by adding - **er** and - **est** respectively. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Gay	Gayer	Gayest
Grey	Greyer	Greyest

5. In Adjectives ending with **double consonants**, or with **one consonant** preceded by **two Vowels**, the Comparative and Superlative Degrees are formed by adding - **er** or - **est** respectively without doubling the last consonant. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Deep	Deeper	Deepest
Great	Greater	Greatest
Thick	Thicker	Thickest
Small	Smaller	Smallest
Dull	Duller	Dullest

6. When an Adjective of **one syllable** has **one consonant** at the end, and this last consonant is **preceded by one short vowel**, the last consonant is **doubled** before adding - **er** or - **est** for making Comparative or Superlative Degrees. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Hot	Hotter	Hottest
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Thin	Thinner	Thinnest
Sad	Sadder	Saddest
Fat	Fatter	Fattest
Red	Redder	Reddest

7. Some Adjectives have **more than two syllables** in their Positive Degree (including a few of only two syllables also). The Comparative or Superlative Degrees of such Adjectives are made by using **more** or **most** before them. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful
Courageous	More courageous	Most courageous
Learned	More learned	Most learned
Splendid	More splendid	Most splendid
Difficult	More difficult	Most difficult
Industrious	More industrious	Most industrious
Proper	More proper	Most proper
Honourable	More honourable	Most honourable
Honest	More honest	Most honest

8. **Irregular Formation**—The Comparative or Superlative Degrees of some Adjectives are irregular. They are not governed by any rules, and their Comparative or Superlative Degrees are not formed from their Positive Degrees. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Little	Less/Lesser	Least
Much	More	Most
Many	More	Most
Late	Later/Latter	Latest/last
Old	Older/Elder	Oldest/eldest
Far	Farther	Farthest(for distance)
Fore	Former	Foremost
In	Inner	Inmost/innermost
Up	Upper	Uppermost/upmost
Out	Outer	Outermost

### Exercise

**Give the Comparative and Superlative Degrees of the following Adjectives :**

- Easy, merry, healthy, wealthy, pretty.
- Small, great, high, low, gay, fine, grey, slow, fast, lazy, bright.
- Sad, thin, red, fat, big.
- Gracious, wonderful, respectable, remarkable, intelligent, loyal, prudent, impressive, industrious, sorry.
- Good, bad, little, much, many.

## Correct Use of Adjectives

### (A) Positive Degree

#### Rule 1—Comparison of Equality

When **equality** or **similarity** is shown through comparison between two **Persons, Things** or **Qualities**, we use the pattern—

**as + Adjective + as**

As—

- She is **as beautiful as** her sister.
- Ram is **as tall as** Shyam.

#### Rule 2—Comparison of Inequality

When **inequality** or **dissimilarity** through comparison is shown between two **Persons, Things** or **Qualities**, we follow the following two patterns—

**not as + Adjective + as**

or

**not so + Adjective + as**

These comparisons are called **Negative comparisons**. As—

- She is **not as beautiful as** her sister.

or

She is **not so beautiful as** her sister.

- Ram is **not as tall as** Shyam.

or

Ram is **not so tall as** Shyam.

**Note**—If we wish to lay more emphasis on **inequality**, we can use **quite** before **so**. As—

- She is **not quite so beautiful as** her sister.
- Ram is **not quite so tall as** Shyam.

#### Rule 3—Concealed Comparison

In some sentences **comparison is not explicit** but concealed in its sense. In such sentences we use—

**not all that + Adjectives**. As—

- He is **not all that intelligent**.  
(i.e. He is not **as intelligent as** he was believed to be.)
- Its price is **not all that high**.
- The swimming pool is **not all that deep**.

#### Rule 4—Comparison of Actions (Verbs)

In Positive Degree **two actions can be compared** in the following ways—



- (i) By using **Gerund**, as—
1. **Writing** is as easy as **reading**.
  2. **Walking** is as difficult as **running**.
- (ii) By using **Infinitive**, as—
1. It is not as easy **to write** as **read**.
  2. It is as difficult **to walk** as **run**.

In this construction it should be remembered that the first Infinitive is used **with to**, and the second **without to**.

- (iii) By using **had better/had rather/had sooner**, as
1. I **had rather go** than **wait**.
  2. You **had rather read** than **write**.
  3. You **had better work** than **sit** idle.
  4. We **had better sit** there than **stand** here.
  5. They **had sooner die** than **surrender**.
  6. They **would sooner die** than **surrender**.
  7. They **would as soon die** as **surrender**.

In this construction Infinitive is used twice, and each time **without to**. This is the correct pattern.

### Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. Sita is as taller as her sister.
2. This book is useful as the other one.
3. Ram is not more merciful as Shyam.
4. I was not so tired than my brother.
5. He is not very so industrious as your servant.
6. You are not highly so tall as your friend.
7. He is not that all trustworthy.
8. His achievement was not all so great.
9. To drive is as difficult as swimming.
10. Public speaking requires as much courage as to dance.
11. It is as difficult to ride as driving.
12. They had better paid the penalty.
13. We would soon pay the money than suffer this insult.
14. I would as soon as die as beg like you.
15. You had better vacated the house than gone for litigation.

**Hints**—(1) as tall as; (2) as useful as; (3) so merciful; or as merciful; (4) as my brother; (5) quite so; (6) quite so tall; (7) not all that; (8) not all that; (9) driving; (10) as dancing; (11) to drive; (12) pay; (13) sooner; (14) as soon die; (15) vacate, go.

### (B) Comparative Degree

#### Rule 5—Comparison between two

Comparative Degree Adjective is used for comparison between **two** Persons, Things or Qualities, not for more than two. As—

1. Ram is **nobler** than Mohan.
2. Which is the **better** between these **two pens** ? (not **better** among these **five pens**.)

#### Rule 6—Use of than

The connective '**than**' is used to show comparison for all Adjectives except those Adjectives shown below under Rule 7. As—

1. Ram is **taller than** Shyam.
2. This house is **better than** that.
3. Sita is **more beautiful than** Geeta.

#### Rule 7—Use of to—

For all Adjectives of Latin origin, comparison is shown by '**to**' (not by '**than**'). The more common Adjectives of Latin origin are—**Superior, inferior, junior, senior, prior, anterior, posterior**. It may be remembered that generally these Adjectives end with **-or**. By this sign they can be recognised. It may be remembered that '**to**' is used after **Prefer / Preferable** also, though they are not of Latin origin. As—

1. He is junior/senior **to** me. (not **than me**)
2. This is **superior/inferior to** that. (not **than that**)
3. His turn comes **prior to** mine. (not **than mine**)
4. Milk is **preferable to** tea. (not **than**)

#### Rule 8—Originally Comparative Degree

The above noted Adjectives of Latin origin (**Superior, inferior, junior, senior, prior, anterior, posterior**) are already of Comparative Degree. Therefore no attempt should be made to make their comparative degree by adding **more / less** or any other comparative

word. Therefore, it is wrong to use such expressions as '**more superior**' or '**less superior**', '**more preferable**' or '**less preferable**' and so on. Also, as has been explained above, '**to**' is used with them, not '**than**'. As—

1. He is **junior to** me. (Not **more junior than**)
2. She is senior **to** her. (Not **more senior than**)
3. Milk is **preferable to** tea. (Not **better preferable**)

#### Rule 9—Double Comparatives

Double comparatives should not be used. Therefore, the following expressions are wrong—**more cleverer; more better; more stronger; less braver; greater higher**, etc. The correct expressions would be—

1. He is **cleverer** (not **more cleverer**) than you.
2. An elephant is **stronger** (not **more stronger**) than a horse.

#### Rule 10—When two qualities

of the same person or thing are to be compared, the Comparative Degree formed by **-er** should not be used. In their place comparative degree should be made by adding **more** or **less** to the Adjective concerned. As—

1. He is **more brave** than **strong**. (Not **braver** than **stronger**)
2. Mohan is **more good** than **wise** (Not **better** than **wise**)
3. He is **more industrious** than **intelligent**. (Not **more industrious** than **more intelligent**)

#### Rule 11—Correct Comparisons

When two persons, things or qualities are to be compared, care should be taken to see that comparison is made between correct persons or things. No wrong comparison should be made. As—

##### My horse is better than Ram.

This sentence is wrong because in this sentence the comparison is wrong. The sentence as it is would mean as if comparison is made between '**my horse**' and '**Ram**'. The correct comparison would be between '**my horse**' and '**Ram's horse**' (not Ram himself). Therefore, the correct form of the above sentence would be—

**My horse is better than Ram's.** (*i.e.*, **Ram's horse**)

Similarly—

1. The **climate of Punjab** is better than **that of Bihar**. (Not **than Bihar**)
2. The markets of Delhi are larger **than those of** (or **than the markets of**) Agra. (Not **than Agra**)

#### Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. This T.V. set is less inferior to your set.
2. His performance was superior than mine.
3. This cloth is much more superior to the other one.
4. His turn comes priorer to yours.
5. Ram is more cleverer than Mohan.
6. You can do still more better work.
7. No man could have done it in less shorter time.
8. Ram is more industrious than more intelligent.
9. He is stronger than cleverer.
10. His writing is better than you.
11. The scenery of Kashmir is more beautiful than Bihar.
12. The cows of Haryana are better than Panjab.
13. Calcutta is larger than that of Bombay.
14. His house is bigger than her.
15. My school is nearer than their.

**Hints**—(1) drop '**less**'; (2) to mine; (3) drop '**more**'; (4) prior; (5) drop '**more**'; (6) drop '**more**'; (7) drop '**less**'; (8) drop '**more**' before '**intelligent**'; (9) '**more strong than clever**'; (10) yours; (11) that of Bihar; (12) those of Panjab; (13) drop '**that of**'; (14) hers; (15) theirs.

#### Rule 12—Proper Comparisons

There may be another error in correct comparison which should be avoided. When a person or thing is to be compared with another person or thing of **the same class or category**, and if the comparison is to be shown by a comparative Adjective followed by '**than**', the person or thing coming after '**than**' should have '**any other**'/'**all others**' or '**else**' before it, otherwise the comparison



would be wrong and the sentence will have no meaning. For example, look at the following sentence—

**Ram is more intelligent than any other student in the class.**

This sentence is correct. But if we delete the word **other** from the sentence and write it as follows—

**Ram is more intelligent than any student in the class.**

The sentence becomes wrong on account of wrong comparison. This sentence would mean as if Ram is not a student (may be a peon) and he is being compared with the students of the class. But when we say **any other** student, the meaning becomes clear that Ram is himself a student and he is being compared with **other** students of the class.

Similarly the following sentences are correct—

1. This book is better than **any other** book in the stock.
2. An elephant is stronger than **all other animals** in the wood.
3. I respect **you** more than **any one else** in the college.

If we write these sentences as follows (after removing **any other/all other/anyone else**), they will all be wrong.

1. This book is better than any book in the stock.
2. An elephant is stronger than all animals in the wood.
3. I respect you more than anyone in the college.

**Note**—It may further be remembered in this context that **other** is used with a **Noun** and **else** with a **Pronoun**. As—**any other teacher, any other pen, any other doctor; anyother else, anyone else, everybody else, etc.**

### *Exercise*

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. Dara Singh was stronger than any man in his youth.
2. He works harder than any student in his class.
3. He is more learned than any teacher in the college.

4. I love you more than any boy in the class.
5. He is dearer to me than anyone in the family.
6. He was in time while everyone was late.
7. I cannot accept you, though I can accept anybody.
8. I cannot believe in your promises, though I can believe in anybody else.

**Hints**—(1) any other; (2) any other; (3) any other; (4) any other; (5) anyone else; (6) everyone else; (7) anybody else; (8) else's.

### **Rule 13—Comparison of Number/Quantity**

Another error is often committed in the comparisons of **Number** and **Quantity**. It should be remembered that **fewer** is used for **Number**, and **less** for **Quantity**. **Fewer** is always followed by **Countable Plural Noun** and **less** by **uncountable Singular Noun**. But **more** can be used both for **Number** and **Quantity**. As—

1. I have **fewer pens** than **pencils**.
2. She gave me **fewer books** than **magazines**.
3. He eats **less butter** than **sugar**.
4. She bought **less gold** than **silver**.
5. There are **more cows** than **goats**.
6. There is **more sugar** than **salt**.

Never use **fewer** in place of **less**, or **less** in place of **fewer**. For example, the following sentences are **wrong**—

1. She bought **fewer gold** than **silver**.
2. I have **less pens** than **pencils**.

### **Rule 14—Comparatively + Positive Degree**

If an **Adjective** (or an **Adverb**) has **Comparatively** before it, the **Adjective** (or **Adverb**) should be used in the **Positive Degree**, **not in the Comparative Degree**. As—

1. This is **comparatively easy** (not **easier**).
2. He is now **comparatively well** (not **better**).
3. This is **comparatively difficult** (not **more difficult**).

### *Exercise*

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. There are less rooms in his house than in mine.
2. He has read less books than I .

3. Only a few milk would be sufficient.
4. Take this medicine with a few tea.
5. Very less guests have come yet.
6. I will have a little fewer sugar in my tea.
7. He is now comparatively better off.
8. Today he came comparatively earlier.
9. Your problem is comparatively easier.
10. He is comparatively a better man.

**Hints**—(1) fewer; (2) fewer; (3) little; (4) little; (5) few; (6) less; (7) well off; (8) early; (9) easy; (10) good.

**Rule 15—Parallel/ Gradual Increase or Decrease**

(a) Some sentences are so constructed that its **Comparative Degree Adjective** is split up and used in the two **Parts** of the sentence as a balance. In such sentences, **Comparative Degree** should be used in **both the parts, not comparative in one part and Positive or Superlative in the other**. As—

1. The **higher** a man rises, the **humbler** he grows.  
We should not say—  
The **higher** a man rises, the **humble** or **humblest** he grows.)
2. The **nobler** a man is, the **more respect** he gets.

(b) In some sentences the same **Comparative Adjective** is **repeated one after the other**. The **form** of such sentences is as follows—

1. He is getting **weaker and weaker**.
2. He is working **harder and harder**.
3. The price-index is rising **higher and higher**.

**Rule 16—Positive Degree+Comparative Degree**

There are also some sentences in which both the **Comparative** and **Positive Degree Adjectives** are used. In such sentences, the **Positive Degree Adjective** should be used with **as .....as** (not with **one as** only) and Comparative Degree Adjective with **than**. As—

1. He runs **as fast as**, if not **faster than** you.
2. She is **as good as**, if not **better than** her mother.
3. This hall is **as large as**, if not **larger than** that.

In the above noted sentences if **as** is used **only once** with the Positive Degree Adjective, they would be wrong. For example, the following sentences are **wrong**—

1. He runs **as** fast, if not faster than you.
2. She is **as** good, if not better than her mother.
3. This hall is **as** large, if not larger than that.

**Rule 17—Emphatic Comparatives**

Emphatic Comparatives can be used in the following **three** ways—

(a) By using **much / far / by far / still** before the Comparative Degree (but not by using **very**). As—

1. This house is **much larger** than that.
2. This is **far better** than that.
3. This is **by far more** important than the other.
4. This book is **still better**.

or,

This book is **better still**.

(b) By using **rather**.

As—

1. This book is **rather cheaper**.
2. This hall is **rather better**.

(c) By using **all the**.

As—

1. This is **all the better**.
2. That was **all the worse**.
3. That was **all the more disappointing**.

**Exercise**

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. The harder a man labours, the best returns he gets.
2. The more contented a man is, the happy he feels.
3. The more you amass, the greediest you grow.
4. The most you conceal, the more you expose yourself.
5. The valley goes deep and deeper from here.

6. The mountain peaks rise high and high from this terrain.
7. He is sinking deeper and deepest into debts.
8. He is as intelligent, if not more intelligent than his father.
9. His position is as bad as, if not worst than yours.
10. He is very better now.
11. This is all the good for me.
12. This cloth is very inferior.

**Hints**—(1) better; (2) happier; (3) greedier; (4) more you conceal; (5) deeper and deeper; (6) higher and higher; (7) deeper and deeper; (8) as intelligent as; (9) worse; (10) much better; (11) better; (12) much inferior.

### (C) Superlative Degree

#### Rule 18—The + Superlative

Article **The** must be used before a Superlative Degree Adjective. As—

1. He is **the best** student of the class.
2. This is **the highest** peak.
3. He is **the most powerful** man.

The following sentences are wrong because Article **a** (not **the**) or **no article** has been used before the Superlative Adjective. As—

He is **a best** student.

or

He is **best** student.

**Note**—But if some **Possessive Adjective** (**my, our, your, his, her, their**) or **Possessive Case (Noun + 's)** has come before the Superlative, we don't use the Article **the**. As—

1. He is **my best** friend.
2. He is **our dearest** child.
3. He is **Ram's best** friend.

#### Rule 19—Three or more Nouns

Superlative Adjective is used for comparison amongst at least **three** or **more** things or persons. As—

1. She is the **best** of the **three** sisters. (Not **best** of the **two** sisters)
2. This is the cheapest of **all**.  
(Not **cheapest** of **both**)

#### Rule 20—Superlative + of/ in

Preposition **of** or **in** is used to show comparison amongst **three** or **more** persons or things. As—

1. He is the richest **of all men** here.
2. This is the cheapest **of all books**.
3. This is the best building **in the town**.
4. He is the most intelligent boy **in the class**.

Remember that **of** is used with most of the Superlative Adjectives, but with the Superlatives showing **place** we use **in** instead of **of**. As—in the **town** or in the **class** in the above noted sentences.

#### Rule 21—Superlative + one of/among

When **one of** or **among** is used with a Superlative, the noun coming after it must be of **Plural Number**. As—

1. Ram is **one of the best boys** in the class.
2. This is **one of the** cheapest **books** available in the market.
3. He is the best **among** these **boys**.
4. This is the cheapest **among** these **books**.

#### Rule 22—Superlative and other

We don't use **other** with a Superlative Degree Adjective. (It may be remembered that with a **Comparative Degree** Adjective **other** is used when the comparison is within the same class or category, but it is not so with a Superlative Adjective.) As—

1. He is the strongest of **all boys**. (Not of **all other boys**)
2. This is the best of **all buildings**. (Not of **all other buildings**)

#### Rule 23—One of.....if not/Superlative

In some sentences **Superlative** is used **twice** once with **one of the** and again with **if not the**. In such sentences **Plural Noun** comes after **one of the + Superlative**, and **Singular Noun** after **if not the + Superlative**. As—

This is **one of the best books**, **if not the best book** on Indian philosophy.

The following are some more sentences—

1. He is one of the greatest **historians**, if not the greatest (**historian**) alive today.

2. This is one of the highest **peaks**, if not the highest (**peak**) of these mountains.
3. This is one of the largest **halls**, if not the largest (**hall**) in the town.

**Note**—In such sentences the **Singular Noun** coming after **if not the + Superlative** is often concealed.

### Exercise

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. He is noblest man I have ever met.
2. This is longest chapter in my book.
3. This is my the most favourite dish.
4. This is Mohan's the highest ambition.
5. She is the tallest of the two sisters.
6. The best of the two will be given the prize.
7. The best of both will be given a chance.
8. This is the most fashionable market of the town.
9. He is the most scholarly of all other teachers.
10. He is the ablest of any other candidates.
11. He is one of the greatest scientists if not the great of this century.
12. Ram is one of the most mischievous boys, if not the more mischievous in the class.
13. You can choose the best of either of these pens.
14. I will live in the bigger of all these houses.
15. He reached the earliest of both.

**Hints**—(1) **the** noblest; (2) **the** longest; (3) drop '**the**'; (4) drop '**the**'; (5) of the **three (or more)**; (6) Three or more/all; (7) of all; (8) in the town; (9) drop '**other**'; (10) '**all**' in place of '**any other**' (11) the greatest; (12) '**most mischievous**' in place of '**more mischievous**'. (13) '**all**' in place of '**either**'; (14) the biggest; (15) '**all**' in place of '**both**'.

### Rule 24—Double Superlative

**Double Superlatives** should not be used. The following sentences are **wrong** because **double superlatives** have been used in them.

1. He is the **most brightest** student.  
(Only **brightest student** should be there.)
2. He is the **most richest** man.
3. This is the **most worst** job.

### Rule 25—Emphatic Superlative

In order to give additional **emphasis** to a Superlative Adjective, we can use **by far the / much the / the very / out and out the**. As—

1. Bangalore is **by far the most beautiful** city.
2. This is **much the best** school.
3. This is **the very best** school.
4. This is **out and out the best** school.

### Rule 26—Adjectives of the same degree

If the **same Noun** is qualified by **two or more than two Adjectives**, all these Adjectives must be of the **same Degree**. As—

1. She is the **best** and **most talented girl**.  
(We can't say **best and talented** or **good and most talented**)
2. This is the **deepest** and **longest** valley.
3. I have the **best** and **cheapest** book.

### Rule 27—Non-gradable Adjectives

The undernoted Adjectives are already of the **Superlative Degree**. They cannot be used as Comparative Degree Adjectives, nor can the emphasising expressions such as **very / extremely / highly / much** can be used with them. These Adjectives are—

**Unique, perfect, matchless, excellent, ideal, absolute, universal, impossible, entire, whole, full, complete, round, extreme, eternal, chief.** Now see their use—

1. He is an **ideal** leader.  
(We can't say **more ideal** or **most ideal**)
2. This is a **unique chance**. (not, **more unique** or **most unique**)
3. This plan is **perfect**.
4. I have **full** sympathy with him.

**Note**—However, these days **full** and **perfect** are being used in **Comparative** and **Superlative** Degrees also. Now we can use **full, fuller, and fullest**, or **perfect, more perfect** or **most perfect**. This use is coming into vogue. As—

1. I have the **fullest** sympathy with you.
2. This is the **more perfect/ most perfect** plan.
3. Please give me a **fuller** account of the incident.

#### Rule 28—Like best/like most

Both these uses are correct.

1. Which of these books do you **like most** ?
2. Which of these books do you **like best** ?

### Some Other Typical Adjectives

#### Rule 29—Kind and sort

**Kind** and **sort** are of Singular Number. Therefore, **this** or **that** should be used with them, **not these** or **those**.

1. I don't like **this/that kind** of men.

*or*

I don't like men of **this/that kind**.

2. I don't like **this/that sort** of men.

*or*

I don't like men of **this/that sort**.

**Note**—**These / those sort** or **these / those kind** are wrong expressions, though some authors have started using them.

#### Rule 30—Adjective/Adverb

Sometimes **Adjectives** are used **with verbs** also, but in that case the **Adjectives** qualify **the subject** of the verb. If, however, they qualify the **action (verb)**, they should be used **Adverbially**. As—

1. The flowers smell **sweet** (not **sweetly**)
2. He looked **angry** (not **angrily**)
3. The ship appeared **suddenly** (not **sudden**)
4. He looked **coldly** at us. (not **cold**)

#### Rule 31—Adjective used as Nouns

Sometimes **Adjectives** are used as **Nouns** in the following cases—

##### (a) Represent a class of people

Sometimes a particular **class of people** in the Plural Number can be represented by an **Adjective** preceded by the definite Article **The**. As—

1. **The rich** should not be proud. (*i.e.* rich people)
2. **The poor** should not be derided. (*i.e.* poor people)

3. **The humble** are blessed.

4. **The wicked** always come to grief.

##### (b) As a Singular Noun representing some abstract quality.

As—

1. Keats was a poet of **the beautiful**.

2. **The future** is bright.

##### (c) Adjectives actually becoming Nouns.

(i) **Proper Nouns**—Canadians, Africans, Asians, Italians.

(ii) **Denoting Persons**—Juniors, seniors, elders, nobles, inferiors, superiors, criminals, savages, betters.

(iii) **In Plural Number only**—sweets, valuables, eatables.

##### (d) In some phrases

**for good, at best, black and white, through thick and thin, for better/for worse/worst, before long, in short, from bad to worse, the long and short.**

1. He has left India **for good**.
2. **At best**, we shall get marginal profit.
3. The agreement was made **in black and white**.
4. We shall remain friends **through thick and thin**.
5. We shall not part company **for better or for worse**.
6. Nothing **better** can come.
7. Nothing **worse** can happen.
8. I am prepared for **the worst**.
9. I shall start a new business **before long**.
10. **In short**, I have lost the chance.
11. His condition is getting **from bad to worse**.
12. **The long and short** of the whole matter is that the match had to be cancelled.

### Exercise

#### (a) Correct the following sentences :

1. He is the most richest man in the town.
2. He is the least slowest worker.
3. He has committed the most worst crime.

4. He is the noblest man by far in our family.
5. This is the much best book on the subject.
6. She is the out and out most fashionable lady.
7. This is the best and easy of all exercises.
8. She is the sweetest and noble girl.
9. We live in the richest and fertile valley.
10. He is the most ideal teacher.
11. You will never get a very unique chance like this.
12. That was a most excellent opportunity.
13. He found it most impossible to swim across the flooded river.
14. He has left the work more incomplete.
15. It is difficult to deal with this kinds of customers.
16. These kind of books are not available here.
17. These sort of men are dangerous.
18. She appears very sweetly in her red frock.
19. I found her smilingly at the door.
20. She looked coldly and indifferently.

**Hints**—(1) drop ‘**most**’; (2) drop ‘**least**’; (3) drop ‘**most**’; (4) by far the noblest man; (5) much the best book; (6) out and out the most fashionable; (7) easiest; (8) noblest; (9) most fertile; (10) drop ‘**most**’; (11) drop ‘**very**’; (12) ‘**an**’ in place of ‘**a most**’; (13) drop ‘**most**’; (14) drop ‘**more**’; (15) these; (16) kinds; (17) sorts; (18) sweet; (19) smiling; (20) cold and indifferent.

**(b) Use the following Adjectives or Adjectival phrases as Nouns—**

Rich, poor, beautiful, junior, senior, elder, sweet, valuable, good, better, best, long and short, bad, worse, worst, black and white, thick and thin, short, from bad to worse.

We give below some typical Adjectives in the use of which there is always some doubt and a mistake is often committed. See their correct use carefully—

#### Later and Latter

**Later** is the Comparative Degree of **late**, while **latter** is **antonym** of **former**. **Later** gives the sense of **time**, while **latter** expresses **place** or **position**. As—

1. Ram came **later** than Hari.
2. This event is of a **later** date.
3. Ram and Shyam are brothers but the **latter** is more cultured than the former.

#### Former and Latter

When there is reference to **only two** persons or things, we use **former** for the first and **latter** for the second. But when the reference is for **three** or **more** persons or things, we use **first** for the first and **last** for the last. As—

1. Ram and Shyam are brothers but the **former** is very rich and the **latter** very poor.
2. In a list of fifty candidates Ram’s name is at the **first** place and **Mohan’s** at the last.

#### First and Foremost

**First** is first merely in serial order without any suggestion of **more** or **less** in importance, while **foremost** means **most important** without any reference to serial order. As—

1. He was the **first** man to reach here.
2. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was the **foremost** statesman of his time.

#### Last and Latest

**Last** is the antonym of **first**, while **latest** is the antonym of **earliest**. Therefore, **last** has the sense of **place** in serial order, while **latest** has the sense of **Time**. As—

1. The **last** person in the queue is my friend.
2. What is the **latest** news about his condition ?

#### Nearest and Next

**Nearest** means nearest in distance, while **next** means **after this / that** in serial order. As—

1. Which is the **nearest railway station** from here ?
2. My seat was **next** from the door.

#### Farther and Further

**Farther** means away in **distance**, while **further** means ‘**in addition to**’. But **further** is also used sometimes for **distance**. As—

1. Lucknow is **farther** from Agra than Kanpur.
2. There is nothing **further** to say.
3. **Further** he said that he was ill.



**Fewer, Less and Lesser**

**Fewer** is used for **number**, **less** for quantity, and **lesser** for **less in importance**. As—

1. **Fewer** visitors came to see the Taj this year.
2. **Fewer** candidates have applied for the post this time.
3. There is **less** milk in the jar.
4. He has now **less** time.
5. Many **lesser** speakers also spoke from the platform.
6. I have not read the **lesser** poets of the Elizabethan Age.

**Note**—If in a certain sentence there is a **Definite Numeral Adjective**, followed by a **Plural Noun**, we use **less** in place of **fewer**. As—

1. I have **ten rupees less** at the moment.
2. There are **two members less** in the team.

**Elder and Eldest : Older and Oldest**

**Elder** and **Eldest** are used for members of the same family. **Elder** means senior in age and **eldest** means senior-most in age. **Older** and **oldest** are used for other people or things, in the same sense of age. As—

1. He is my **elder brother**.
2. My **eldest** brother is like my father.
3. I am **older than** my friend.
4. He is the **oldest** man in the village.
5. This is the **oldest** Church.

**Note**—It may be remembered that **older** is followed by **than**, while **elder** is followed by **to**. As—

I am **elder to** my sister, while she is **older than** her friend.

**Exercise**

(a) **Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with 'later' or 'latter' :**

1. ....on he said that he could not help me.
2. The majority accepted the .....proposal.
3. The .....half of the century produced no great poet.
4. I can come at some .....date.
5. At a .....date, he was also promoted as the chief engineer.

**Hints**—(1) Later; (2) latter; (3) latter; (4) later; (5) later.

(b) **Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with 'former' or 'latter' or 'first', or 'foremost', or 'last' :**

1. Ram and Shyam are both good students but the.....is more cultured than the....
2. Johnson is our .....manager.
3. Ramu is so weak that he stands.....in the list.
4. Homer was the.....great Greek poet..
5. Wordsworth was the.....romantic poet.

**Hints**—(1) former, latter; (2) former; (3) last; (4) first; (5) foremost.

(c) **Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with 'last' or 'latest', 'next' or 'nearest', 'farther' or 'further', 'fewer' or 'less' :**

1. The man who came .....could not get a seat.
2. The.....and concluding chapter is the most important one.
3. The.....news from the war front is very disappointing.
4. This is the.....issue of the magazine.
5. Bahadur Shah was the.....King of the Mugal dynasty.
6. Bombay Central is the.....station from our locality.
7. Roorki is .....from here than Delhi.
8. The.....hospital from here is five kilometres away.
9. Turn to the left from the.....crossing.
10. I shall give you a good book.....time.
11. He could not speak any.....
12. He could not go any .....
13. Ram's house is.....to mine.
14. No.....argument is needed.
15. Please come without any ..... delay.
16. Don't go any.....into the wood.
17. He has.....friends than you.
18. This market is .....crowded.
19. His chances are.....than mine.
20. There is.....risk in this business.

**Hints**—(1) last; (2) last; (3) latest; (4) latest; (5) last; (6) nearest; (7) farther; (8) nearest; (9) next; (10) next; (11) further; (12) farther; (13) next; (14) further; (15) further; (16) farther; (17) fewer; (18) less; (19) fewer; (20) less.

(d) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with 'elder' or 'eldest', 'older' or 'oldest' :

1. My friend is .....than me.
2. My ..... brother is coming today.
3. Our ..... were highly respectable.
4. I have no ..... sister.
5. This is the ..... edition of this book.
6. This is our ..... house.
7. My ..... sister has two sons.
8. This is the ..... temple in the town.

**Hints**—(1) older; (2) elder or eldest; (3) elders; (4) elder; (5) oldest; (6) oldest; (7) elder or eldest; (8) oldest.

### Some and Any

**Some** is used in **Affirmative** and **Interrogative** sentences for **request** or **invitation**.

**Any** is used in **Negative** and **Interrogative** sentences. As—

1. I have **some** letters for you.  
(Since it is an **affirmative** sentence, we cannot say '**any** letters for you')
2. I do not have **any** letters for you.  
(Since it is a **negative** sentence, we cannot say 'some letters for you'.)
3. I want to read **some** more books.
4. I don't want to read **any** more books.
5. Do you have **some** friends with you ?
6. Do you not have **any** friend with you ?
7. Will you please have **some** tea ?
8. No, I will not have **any**.

or

Yes, I will have **some**.

### Little, a little, the little

(a) **Little** means **almost nil / nothing**. It has a negative sense. As—

1. There is **little** hope of his success.  
(i.e. There is almost no hope of his success.)
2. I have **little** time to waste.

(b) **A little** means small in quantity.

1. There is **a little** money left.  
(i.e. small amount)
2. I have only **a little** sugar left.
3. We had only **a little** time to complete the work.

(c) **The little** means **not much but all that is there**.

1. He has wasted **the little** money he had.  
(i.e. **not much, but all that he had**.)
2. Make the best use of **the little** time you have.

### Few, a few, the few

(a) '**Few**' means '**almost nil**'. It has a negative sense.

1. He has **few** chances of success.  
(i.e. almost no chances of success.)
2. He has **few** enemies.

(b) **A few** means 'small in number'.

1. I can give you **a few** books.
2. I have only **a few** friends.

(c) '**The few**' means '**small in number**', but **all that are there**.

1. I have lost the **few** books I had.  
(i.e. **very few** in number, but all those that I had.)
2. Carefully read **the few** books you have.

### Exercise

(a) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with **some** or **any**; **little**, **a little**, or **the little** :

1. I don't have ..... money in my pocket.
2. Can you lend me ..... money ?
3. He could not lend me ..... money.
4. I have not invited ..... of my friends.
5. Do you want to invite ..... of your friends ?
6. Do you have ..... time to help me ?
7. No, I don't have ..... time.
8. There is ..... hope of his recovery.
9. There is ..... milk left in the pot.
10. .... milk he had has turned sour.
11. A poor man has ..... money to waste.
12. There is ..... work left to complete.
13. .... work left yesterday has been completed.
14. There is ..... time now left.

**Hints**—(1) any; (2) some; (3) any; (4) any; (5) some; (6) some; (7) any; (8) little; (9) a little; (10) The little; (11) little; (12) a little; (13) The little; (14) little.

**(b) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with *few*, *a few*, or *the few* :**

1. There are ..... friends who remain faithful in hard times.
2. He has only ..... friends.
3. .... friends he has are really faithful to him.
4. A good man has ..... enemies.
5. .... passengers were injured in the accident.
6. .... passengers injured in the accident have been given first-aid.
7. .... books would serve my purpose.
8. .... books I had have all gone out of course.

**Hints**—(1) few; (2) a few; (3) The few; (4) few; (5) A few; (6) The few; (7) A few; (8) The few.

**Each and Every**

**Each** is used for **two or more than two**.

**Every** is used for **at least three or more**.

Every should not be used for **two**. As—

1. **Each** of you must reach in time.
2. **Each** of the two brothers is highly cultured. (not '**every one of the two**') )
3. **Every** one of them was ready to go.
4. I know **every** street of Calcutta.

**Either and Neither**

**Either** means '**one of the two**'; **Neither** means '**neither this nor that of the two**.' **Neither** is **antonym** of **either**. **Neither / Either** are **not** used for **more than two**. As—

1. You can take **either** side.
2. **Either** of the two brothers can come.
3. You should take **neither** side.
4. **Neither** of the two brothers is likely to come.

**'Due to' and 'owing to'**

**'Due to'** means '**caused by**'. It is related with the action of a verb. As—

1. His demotion was **due to** his negligence of duty.
2. He has risen so high **due to** his hard labour.

**'Owing to'** is only a Prepositional phrase. It only governs a **Noun** or a **Nominal**. It is generally placed **at the beginning** of the sentence.

1. **Owing to** his illness, he could not appear at the examination.
2. **Owing to heavy rain**, the programme was badly disturbed.

**Many a**

It is used like a **Singular Numeral Adjective**, though it is **Plural** in sense. It takes a **Singular Noun** and a **Singular Verb** after it. It means **many (one by one)**. As—

1. **Many a young man has** laid down his life for the country.
2. **Many a great occasion has** come in my life.

**Verbal and Oral**

**Verbal** means **of or in words**. It is opposite of '**written**'. As—

1. There is no **verbal** difference between the two documents.
2. There is a striking **verbal** similarity between the two poems.

**'Oral'** means by '**mouth**', not in writing.

1. There will be an **oral** test.
2. He has failed in the **oral** examination.

**Note**—Nowadays '**Verbal**' is also used in the sense of '**Oral**' (by mouth).

1. We have received a **verbal** message.

**'Common' and 'Mutual'**

**'Common'** means belonging to **two or more** persons or things.

1. There is nothing **common** between them.
2. This is our **common** property.

**'Mutual'** means '**between two**', '**for each other**'.

1. There was **mutual exchange** of views between them.
2. There was little **mutual understanding** between them.

**Exercise****(a) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate adjectives :**

1. .... one of the villagers had to vacate his house.
2. .... of Ram, Shyam and Mohan was fined for coming late.
3. .... of the two friends is answerable for it.

4. .... of them is a hard worker.
5. .... of the two candidates can be selected.
6. .... of the two candidates is fit for appointment.
7. You may join ..... party.
8. He found ..... party acceptable.
9. The roof collapsed ..... heavy load.
10. .... heavy load the roof collapsed.
11. .... patriot has laid down his life.
12. .... good student has failed this year.
13. He did not come for his ..... test.
14. I cannot accept your ..... assurance.
15. We live in a ..... house.
16. This is a ..... Community Hall.
17. This will serve our ..... interests.
18. Let there be ..... give and take between friends.
19. We can share a ..... room.
20. We have no ..... friend.
10. He rose very high in his latter days.
11. The later half of this book is better.
12. This is the best and late discovery.
13. My friend is elder to me.
14. He is the most ideal student.
15. My watch is more costly than you.
16. The population of Kanpur is more than Agra.
17. She is the gentlest and beautiful girl.
18. He has wasted the few money he had.
19. The flowers smell so sweetly.
20. These kind of persons should be avoided.
21. Is he wiser than any man ?
22. He is the wisest of all other men present here.
23. He made the most unkindest remark.
24. He has done a most unique work.
25. I have no farther demand.
26. The three first chapters of this book are in our course.
27. Ram is our mutual friend.

**Hints**—(1) Every; (2) Each; (3) Each; (4) Every one; (5) Either; (6) Neither; (7) either; (8) neither; (9) due to; (10) Owing to; (11) Many a; (12) Many a; (13) oral; (14) verbal; (15) common; (16) common; (17) mutual; (18) mutual; (19) common; (20) common.

### Revision Exercise

#### Correct the following sentences :

1. Very little students are present in the class today.
2. There is few milk in the pot.
3. He is junior than I.
4. This scheme is more preferable than the old one.
5. This is the most saddest news.
6. Of these four persons he is more intelligent.
7. Between these two books this is the best.
8. Read the chapter farther.
9. Do you have any farther scheme ?
32. She is as beautiful if not more than her sister.
33. This is one of the good, if not the best house available on rent here.
34. Who is the richest between the two brothers ?
35. He hasn't some room to spare for my studies.
36. I have any books you need for your studies.
37. He has brought some sweet from the market.
38. We must all respect our elder.
39. Tell the whole story in briefly.
40. I have lost all money I had.