

# 6 Correction of Common Errors (Adjectives)

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1. He dead. (Incorrect)

He has died.

He died.

He was dead. (Correct)

He is dead.

He had died.

**Note: 'Dead' is an adjective whereas 'died' is the past tense and past participle of the verb 'to die'.**

2. He gave me little money to spend. (Incorrect)

He gave me a little money to spend. (Correct)

**Note: 'Little' means nothing whereas 'a little' means something.**

3. (a) The book is more costly than the other. (Incorrect)

The book is costlier than the other. (Correct)

(b) This is heavy of all the stones. (Incorrect)

This is the heaviest of all the stones. (Correct)

(c) I am the younger in the family. (Incorrect)

I am the youngest in the family. (Correct)

(d) Your account is worst than mine. (Incorrect)

Your account is worse than mine. (Correct)

(e) This one is worst than that one. (Incorrect)

This one is worse than that one. (Correct)

(f) Which is the better of the three methods? (Incorrect)

Which of the three methods is the best? (Correct)

**Note: The comparative degree is used when we compare two things and the superlative degree is used when there are more than two persons or things.**

4. (a) I have a toothache, so I can't eat something. (Incorrect)

I have a toothache, so I can't eat anything. (Correct)

(b) I have any books. (Incorrect)

I have some books. (Correct)

(c) He hasn't some pens. (Incorrect)

He hasn't any pens. (Correct)

(d) Have you some sugar? (Incorrect)

Have you any sugar? (Correct)

**Note: 'Some' is generally used in affirmative or declarative sentences whereas 'any' is used in negative sentences and interrogative ones.**

5. (a) The weather is warmer as the last week. (Incorrect)

The weather is warmer than that of the last week. (Correct)

(b) Rekha is taller from her sister. (Incorrect)

Rekha is taller than her sister. (Correct)

**Note: 'Than' is used in the comparative degree.**

6. (a) Iron is more useful than any metal. (Incorrect)

Iron is more useful than any other metal. (Correct)

(b) The USA is the richest of all other countries. (Incorrect)

The USA is the richest of all the countries. (Correct)

(c) He was the most courteous and the noblest person in the town. (Incorrect)

He was the noblest and most courteous person in the town. (Correct)

**Note: When the adjectives in the comparative degrees or superlative degrees come together, the one formed by adding 'more' or 'most' should follow the other adjective.**

7. We should help the poors. (Incorrect)

We should help the poor. (Correct)

**Note: Adjectives preceded by the article 'the' and used as plural common nouns do not take 's' after them.**

8. (a) My boy-friend is very older than me. (Incorrect)

My boy-friend is much older than I am. (Correct)

(b) You are far much tolerant than I am. (Incorrect)

You are far more tolerant than I am. (Correct)

**Note: 'Very' is never used with the comparative degree. 'Much' or 'far' is used instead. But 'very much', 'a lot', 'lots', 'any', 'no', 'rather', 'a little', 'a bit', etc. are a few words which are used with the comparative degree; as,**

Very much richer

a lot happier

rather more quickly

a little less expensive

a bit easier

Things are no better than before.

9. (a) This is a more safer place. (Incorrect)

This is a safer place. (Correct)

(b) The most busiest hour is 10 o'clock in the morning. (Incorrect)

The busiest hour is 10 o'clock in the morning. (Correct)

**Note: A double comparative (= more safer) or a double superlative (= most busiest) is never used.**

10. (a) This photograph is the best of the two. (Incorrect)

This photograph is the better of the two. (Correct)

(b) Tom is the tallest of the two boys. (Incorrect)

Tom is the taller of the two boys. (Correct)

**Note: A comparative degree is used where two persons or things are mentioned.**

11. This little girl is better than clever. (Incorrect)

This little girl is more good than clever. (Correct)

**Note: 'More' is used where two qualities of the same person/thing are compared.**

12. Open your book at twenty-fifth page. (Incorrect)

Open your book at page twenty-five. (Correct)

13. Bipan was elder than Rama. (Incorrect)

Bipan was older than Rama. (Correct)

**Note: The word 'elder' is never followed by 'than'. Always say—She is my elder sister; he is my elder brother.**

14. These all apples have become rotten. (Incorrect)

All these apples have become rotten. (Correct)

15. From the two he is clever. (Incorrect)

He is the cleverer of the two. (Correct)

16. He lives in the most excellent house. (Incorrect)

He lives in an excellent house. (Correct)

**Note: Some adjectives being superlative in meaning do not admit of comparison, as, excellent, entire, extreme, ideal, perfect, unique, universal, etc.**

17. He is inferior than me. (Incorrect)

He is inferior to me. (Correct)

**Note: The adjectives ending in 'or' are followed by 'to', not by 'than'. These adjectives are eight in number; as, inferior, superior, junior, senior, anterior, posterior, ulterior, prior.**

18. Of the three—orange, apple and mango—the latter is my favourite fruit. (Incorrect)

Of the three—orange, apple and mango—the last is my favourite fruit. (Correct)

**Note: Use 'latter' for two and 'last' for more than two.**

19. (a) Ambala is further than Karnal from Delhi. (Incorrect)

Ambala is farther than Karnal from Delhi. (Correct)

(b) America is ready to give us farther help. (Incorrect)

America is ready to give us further help. (Correct)

**Note: 'Farther' means more distant whereas 'further' means additional.**

20. (a) His oldest son is a lawyer. (Incorrect)

His eldest son is a lawyer. (Correct)

(b) Lata is the older of the two sisters. (Incorrect)

Lata is the elder of the two sisters. (Correct)

**Note: 'Elder' and 'eldest' are used only for persons belonging to the same family. 'Older' and 'oldest' are used for both persons and things.**

21. No less than three students were fired. (Incorrect)

No fewer than three students were fired. (Correct)

**Note: 'Less' refers to quantity whereas 'fewer' denotes number.**

22. (a) I saw a most unique sight. (Incorrect)

I saw a unique sight. (Correct)

(b) Is there anything more eternal? (Incorrect)

Is there anything eternal? (Correct)

(c) I found that dog more dead. (Incorrect)

I found that dog dead. (Correct)

**Note: Adjectives like unique, eternal, round, dead, triangular, golden, entire, chief, dumb, free, blind, universal, ideal, weekly, monthly, etc. are never used with comparative degrees and superlative degrees.**

**Explanation:** According to F.T. Wood, the world-famous English grammarian, adjectives like unique, dead, blind, dumb, which express an absolute idea of which there can't be degrees, obviously can't have a comparative degree. One thing can't be more unique than another or one person more dead or more dumb than another.

23. (a) My brother has not much book. (Incorrect)

My brother has not many books. (Correct)

(b) Is there many sugar in the bottle? (Incorrect)

Is there much sugar in the bottle? (Correct)

**Note: 'Much' refers to quantity whereas 'many' refers to number.**

24. (a) He is the tallest boy of the school. (Incorrect)

He is the tallest boy in the school. (Correct)

(b) It is the most expensive car of the world. (Incorrect)

) It is the most expensive car in the world. (Correct)

**Note: After superlative degrees, we use in (or other prepositions) to show what place we are talking about; as,**

**It is the most expensive car in the world.**

**I am the happiest girl under the sun.**

**'of' is not normally used, but it is possible after a superlative degree without a noun; as,**

**She is the most sensible of the Smith Girls.** 25. (a) It is best book I have ever read. (Incorrect)

It is the best book I have ever read. (Correct)

(b) He is fastest runner here. (Incorrect)

He is the fastest runner here. (Correct)

**Note: 'The' is added before a superlative degree.**

But there are a few exceptions to this rule—

(a) That is most (= very) kind of you.

(b) Which do you like best?

(c) I like that one most.

(d) I buy the pen that costs least.

**Note: When 'most' is used as 'very', 'the' is omitted. Here 'like best' or 'cost least' have become set phrases which don't need 'the' before them. Sometimes superlative adjectives are used without nouns; as, I am the greatest; this one is the fastest.**

26. (a) I saw an asleep man. (Incorrect)

I saw a man asleep. (Correct)

(b) An alone lady might be in danger here. (Incorrect)

A lady alone might be in danger here. (Correct)

(c) That is an ill man. (Incorrect)

That man is ill. (Correct)

(d) These two all alike friends. (Incorrect)

These two are friends alike. (Correct)

**Note: There are some adjectives like asleep, alone, ill, afraid, akin, alike, awake, ashamed, averse, etc. which are used after nouns.**

27. It was done in a remarkable clever manner. (Incorrect)

It was done in a remarkably clever manner. (Correct)

**Note: 'Remarkable' is an adjective; it can't qualify another adjective, i.e. 'clever'.**

28. That was a worth-seeing spectacle. (Incorrect)

That was a spectacle worth seeing. (Correct)

**Note: 'Worth-seeing' is not a one-word adjective.**

29. I have leave of three days only. (Incorrect)

I have three days' leave only. (Correct)

I have leave for three days only.

30. I have never seen a so good servant. (Incorrect)

I have never seen so good a servant. (Correct)

31. He was fined hundred rupees. (Incorrect)

He was fined a hundred rupees. (Correct)

32. He took it up with his both hands. (Incorrect)

He took it up with both his hands. (Correct)

33. (a) Many a men hanker after wealth. (Incorrect)

Many a man hankers after wealth. (Correct)

(b) His illness was very heavy. (Incorrect)

His illness was very serious. (Correct)

(c) They had a heavy quarrel. (Incorrect)

They had a serious quarrel. (Correct)

(d) I know him very good. (Incorrect)

I know him very well. (Correct)

**Note: 'Many a' is followed by a singular noun and a singular verb. 'Heavy' denotes weight but 'serious' means important because of possible danger; as, a serious mistake, a serious crime.**

34. (a) I am two years smaller than you. (Incorrect)

I am two years younger than you. (Correct)

(b) He is three years bigger than you. (Incorrect)

He is three years older than you. (Correct)

**Note: 'Smaller' and 'bigger' denote size whereas 'younger' and 'older' denote age.**

35. (a) He has grown into a beautiful youth. (Incorrect)

He has grown into a handsome youth. (Correct)

(b) She has grown into a handsome young girl. (Incorrect)

She has grown into a beautiful young girl. (Correct)

**Note: For beauty, 'beautiful' is used for woman and 'handsome' is used for man.**

36. Everyone had left him; he had a few friends now. (Incorrect)

Everyone had left him; he had few friends now. (Correct)

**Note: 'A few' means some 'few' means none. The content of the sentence implies that he had no friends, therefore 'few' and not 'a few' is used.**

37. It is happy to note that our teams has won the match. (Incorrect)

It is gratifying to note that our team has won the match. (Correct)

38. Whole town came to receive him. (Incorrect)

The whole town (= the whole of town) came to receive him. (Correct)

39. How happy we are at home than in college! (Incorrect)

How much happier we are at home than in college! (Correct)

40. We found his house with somewhat difficulty. (Incorrect)

We found his house with some difficulty. (Correct)

**Note: 'Somewhat' is an adverb and cannot qualify a noun.**

41. You only are responsible for this tragedy. (Incorrect)

You alone are responsible for this tragedy. (Correct)

42. (a) This is my every day clothing. (Incorrect)

This is my everyday clothing. (Correct)

(b) He goes to school everyday. (Incorrect)

He goes to school every day. (Correct)

**Note: When 'everyday' is used as an adjective, i.e. when it is followed by a noun, it is one word, otherwise it is written in two words, i.e. every day.**

43. (a) He lives nearby. (Incorrect)

He lives near by. (Correct)

(b) My uncle put up in a near by hotel. (Incorrect)

My uncle put up in a nearby hotel. (Correct)

**Note: when 'nearby' is used as an adjective, it is one word, otherwise it is written in two words, i.e. near by.**

44. (a) He is a greedy man for money. (Incorrect)

He is a man greedy for money. (Correct)

(b) All these are worthy matters of attention. (Incorrect)

All these are matters worthy of attention. (Correct)

**Note: An adjective can be placed after a noun when the adjective is followed by a prepositional phrase.**

45. The two first chapters of this book are interesting. (Incorrect)

The first two chapters of this book are interesting. (Correct)

**Note: 'The two first' is a meaningless expression, so 'the first two' should be used.**

46. (a) He acted well in comedies than in tragedies. (Incorrect)

He acted better in comedies than in tragedies. (Correct)

(b) My English knowledge is sound. (Incorrect)

My knowledge of English is sound. (Correct)

(c) He is my family member. (Incorrect)

He is a member of my family. (Correct)

**Note: Comparative degree is 'better', and not 'well'; 'knowledge of English' is a correct**

expression. The correct expression is 'member of my family'.

47. (a) Older I get, happier I am. (Incorrect)

The older I get, the happier I am. (Correct)

(b) More you work, less you learn. (Incorrect)

The more you work, the less you learn. (Correct)

(c) The more it is dangerous, the more I like it. (Incorrect)

The more dangerous it is, the more I like it. (Correct)

**Note: I special constructions, the—the is used with the comparative degrees to state that two changes happen together. Never separate an adjective, an adverb or a noun from 'more' [see sentence (c) below].**

48. From there I went to the next hotel. (Incorrect)

From there, I went to the nearest hotel. (Correct)

**Note: 'Nearest' denotes distance and 'next' denotes position.**

49. What is the last news? (Incorrect)

What is the latest news? (Correct)

**Note: 'Latest' means the most recent whereas 'last' denotes order.**

50. He has secured passing marks. (Incorrect)

He has secured pass marks. (Correct)

51. You are the nicest in the lot. (Incorrect)

You are the nicest of the lot. (Correct)

**Note: 'Of-structure' is generally used as a superlative adjective.**

52. (a) It seems to me a good and fine job. (Incorrect)

It seems to me a better and finer job. (Correct)

(b) He is taller and old than my friend. (Incorrect)

He is taller and older than my friend. (Correct)

(c) I got the sweetest and charming thing. (Incorrect)

I got the sweetest and most charming thing. (Correct)

**Note: If a sentence contains two adjectives in different degrees, the degree in the second part comes according to the degree in the first part.**

53. (a) Health is more preferable than wealth. (Incorrect)

Health is preferable to wealth. (Correct)

(b) Knowledge is even more preferable than riches. (Incorrect)

Knowledge is preferable even to riches. (Correct)

(c) We prefer reading than writing. (Incorrect)

We prefer reading to writing. (Correct)

We prefer to read rather than to write.

**Note: 'Preferable' is never followed by than. It means more desirable. Similarly, 'Prefer' is always followed by 'to', not by 'than'.**

54. (a) He was the laziest of all other workmen. (Incorrect)

He was the laziest of all workmen. (Correct)

(b) She was the best of all other singers. (Incorrect)

She was the best of all singers. (Correct)

**Note: One should never use 'other' after a superlative degree of adjective.**

55. (a) M.K. Gandhi was a greater leader of India. (Incorrect)

M.K. Gandhi was a great leader of India. (Correct)

(b) He is a more intelligent student of the class. (Incorrect)

He is a very intelligent student of the class. (Correct)

**Note: If comparison is not crystal clear, no comparative degree is used.**

56. This house is elder than that house. (Incorrect)

This house is older than that house. (Correct)

**Note: For comparing things, 'older', and not 'elder', is used.**

57. (a) There is no any boy in the class. (Incorrect)

There is no boy in the class. (Correct)

(b) He has no a hat. (Incorrect)

He has no hat. (Correct)

(c) He has not a book. (Incorrect)

He has no book. (Correct)

**Note: 'Not + a' equals 'no' and 'not any' and 'not a' also equal 'no'.**

58. (a) He is one of the taller boys in the class. (Incorrect)

He is one of the tallest boys in the class. (Correct)

(b) John is one of the more intelligent boys I know. (Incorrect)

John is one of the most intelligent boys I know. (Correct)

**Note: The adjective followed by 'one of' always comes in the superlative degree.** 59. (a) I am very fond of these kind of flowers. (Incorrect)

I am very fond of this kind of flowers. (Correct)

or

I am very fond of the flowers of this kind. (Correct)

(b) I never like those sort of people. (Incorrect)

I never like that sort of people. (Correct)

or

I never like people of that sort. (Correct)

**Note: The plurals of 'this' and 'that' are these and 'those' respectively. If the noun is singular, a singular adjective is used for it. 'Kind' and 'sort' are singular nouns, hence singular adjectives are used for them.**

**Order for placing various adjectives**

Sometimes several adjectives qualify a single noun. There is no fixed rule as to how the order for placing various adjectives should be. But the following table, clarifies the point.



	<i>Quality, etc.</i>	<i>Size, length, shape, etc.</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Noun or gerund</i>	<i>Noun</i>
a	—	high	—	brick	wall
an	old	—	—	gold	watch
a	—	small	red	tin	box
—	new	—	black	—	shoes
a	valuable	—	brown	leather	belt
her	attractive	large	green	silk	dress

From the above table, we conclude:

- A high brick wall. (Correct)
- A brick high wall. (Incorrect)
- An old gold watch. (Correct)
- A gold old watch. (Incorrect)
- A valuable brown leather belt. (Correct)
- A leather brown valuable belt. (Incorrect)