

Chapter

11

Adjective

What is an Adjective?

Adjective is a word that tells us about or add to the meaning of a noun. e.g.,

- (i) She is a kind lady.
- (ii) I like this pen.
- (iii) She lives in a large house.
- (iv) He is a strong player.

There are following two classes of adjectives :

- (i) Descriptive adjective
- (ii) Determiner adjective

Descriptive adjective denote the quality, size, colour, shape etc. of a noun.

Position of Adjectives—Descriptive adjectives are used both attributively and predicatively while Determiner adjectives are used only before the noun.

She is an honest girl.

(Attributive use)

The girl is honest.

(Predicative use)

Kinds of Adjectives

A. Descriptive Adjectives

Adjective of Quality

— Ugly, heavy, dry, good, red.

B. Determiner Adjectives

- (i) Demonstrative Adjectives
- (ii) Distributive Adjectives
- (iii) Quantitative Adjectives
- (iv) Numerical Adjectives
- (v) Interrogative Adjectives
- (vi) Possessive Adjectives
- (vii) Present/Past Participle Adjectives
- (viii) Relative Adjectives
- (ix) Emphatic Adjectives
- (x) Proper Adjectives
- (xi) Exclamatory Adjectives

- This, that, these, those.
- Each, every, either, neither.
- Some, any, no, little.
- few, many all, several, one, first
- Which, what, whose.
- My, our, your, his, her, their, its.
- A moving bus, a wounded driver, a burnt man, tiring journey.
- who, which, that
- Own, such, same, very.
- Indian, Asian, American.
- What, which, how

C. Articles as Determiners

A, An, The (See Chapter on Articles)

Distinction between Adjectives and Pronouns

(i) Demonstrative Adjectives and Demonstrative Pronouns—

- (i) Please get me that book. (Adjective)
- (ii) That is my book. (Pronoun)

(ii) Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns—

- (i) This is my book. (Adjective)
- (ii) This book is mine. (Pronoun)
- (iii) It is her vanity box. (Adjective)
- (iv) This vanity box is hers. (Pronoun)

(iii) Distributive Adjectives and Distributive Pronouns—

- (i) Either boy has stolen my book. (Adjective)
- (ii) Neither book will serve my purpose. (Adjective)
- (iii) I do not like either of the sisters. (Pronoun)
- (iv) We bought neither of the bikes. (Pronoun)

Note : Every is only adjective, and it cannot be used as determiner. But each can be used both as adjective and pronoun.

- (v) Every boy was present. (Adjective)
- (vi) Each boy was present. (Adjective)
- (vii) Each of the boys will come. (Pronoun)
- (viii) Everyone of them is wasting money. (Pronoun)

Rules of Adjective

Rule I

Generally speaking adjective is used when the quality of a noun and pronoun rather than the action of a verb is expressed.

Adverb is used to modify the action of a verb, an adjective, an adverb. e.g.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| (i) She is a skilful dancer. | (quality) |
| (ii) She dances skilfully. | (action) |
| (iii) Sonu's act was thoughtful. | (quality) |
| (iv) Sonu acted thoughtfully. | (action) |

Rule II

The verbs given below are **linking verbs**—

Some verbs are not modified by adverbs. 'Be, become, seem, appear, taste, smell, sound, feel, turn, get, grow, keep, look, make, prove, etc.

- (i) Her voice sounds harsh.
- (ii) She appears sad.

- (iii) I feel sick.
- (iv) She has grown wise.
- (v) Mona is smart.

Note : The distinction between the following sentences—

1. (a) She looked calm and quiet. (Linking verb, *Correct*)
 (b) She looked at her angry husband calmly and quietly. (In a calm and quiet manner, *Correct*)
2. (a) The mangoes taste sweetly. (Use *sweet*, *Correct*)
 (b) She talks sweetly.

Rule III

There are some adjectives which don't admit of any comparative and superlative degree. Such adjectives denote absolute position.

'Perfect, unique, ideal, chief, universal, extreme, complete, entire, excellent, absolute, impossible, eternal, supreme' etc. e.g.,

- (i) I have never seen a more complete book on General Studies. (Drop 'more')
- (ii) Happiness is the chiefest aim of mankind. (Use 'chief')
- (iii) How can divided India become the most supreme power? (Remove 'the most')

Rule IV

The comparative adjectives such as—

'Prior, junior, senior, superior, inferior, prefer (verb), preferable, elder' etc. are followed by 'to' instead of 'than'.

Nor are they used in comparative degree.

- (i) He is senior to me in service. (Use 'to' in place of 'than')
- (ii) Lemon juice is preferable to tea. (Use 'to' in place of 'than')
- (iii) My sister is elder to me by two years. (Use 'to' in place of 'than')
- (iv) She prefers coffee rather than tea. ('rather than' in place of 'to' is correct.)
- (v) She is comparatively smarter than her husband. (Use *smart*)
- (vi) She is more senior to her boss in service. (Remove 'more')
- (vii) Milk is more preferable to tea. (Remove 'more')

Note : 'Rather than' may be used for 'to' after 'prefer'. (iv)

Rule V

Note carefully the distinction among the following adjectives :

Little is used for quantity.

(little, less, least)

Little means hardly any.

(negative sense)

A little means not much (some).

(Affirmative meaning)

The little means not much but all.

Few is used for number.

(few, fewer, fewest)

Few means hardly anyone/anything.

(negative sense)

A few means not many (some).

(Affirmative meaning)

The few means not many but all.

Some is used in affirmative and while making request

in interrogative.

Some is used as an adjective.

Somewhat is used as an adverb.

Farther means more distant.

(Far, farther, farthest)

Other means the second of the two.

Older/Oldest is used for persons (not blood relation) and things.

(Old, older, oldest)

It refers both to age and time.

Later is the opposite of earlier.

(Refers to time)

Latest means recent, last up to now only.

(Late, later, latest) [time]

Any is used for negative and interrogative sentences and in the sense of every

(No any/Not any are wrong expressions.)

if any

Further means additional.

Another means additional one. (More)

Elder/Eldest is used for persons only in the case of blood relations.

(Old, elder, eldest)

It refers to age only.

Latter is the opposite of former.

(Refers to position)

Last means last of all.

(Late, latter, last) (Position)

Note : Little and few Cannot qualify the words 'quantity' and 'Number' Small is used to qualify these words.

Now study these sentences—

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| (i) Little common sense can bring success to you. | (Use 'a little') |
| (ii) Little that she did for me is unforgettable. | (Use 'The' before 'little') |
| (iii) Little knowledge is a dangerous thing. | (Use 'a' before 'little') |
| (iv) I requested him to bring me few books. | (Use 'a few') |
| (v) Few days I passed in her company were exciting. | (Use 'The few') |
| (vi) There are less passengers in the compartment today. | (Use 'fewer') |
| (vii) There are five students less in the class. | (Correct) |
| (viii) I have ten rupees less to pay. | (Correct) |
| (ix) Could you please give me some money? | (Correct) |
| (x) Have you brought some gold for her? | (Use 'any' in place of 'some') |
| (xi) Little Money you are earning should not be wasted | (use the before little) |
| (xii) She was some angry. | (Use 'somewhat' in place of 'some') |
| (xiii) She expressed somewhat anger | (say 'some anger') |
| (xiv) I have no any money in my pocket. | (Drop 'any') |
| (xv) Moradabad is further from Delhi than Meerut. | (Use 'farther' in place of 'further') |
| (xvi) No farther help from government is required. | (Use 'further' in place of 'farther') |
| (xvii) I am still thirsty, please give me other glass of water. | (Say 'another' in place of 'other') |
| (xviii) My oldest sister is living in Chicago these days. | (Use 'eldest' in place of 'oldest') |
| (xix) My sister is elder to me. | (Correct) |
| (xx) My friend is older than I. | (Correct) |

(xxi) She came latter than I.

(Use 'later' for time)

(xxii) Reena and Heena are two sisters but the later is more intelligent than the former.

(Use 'latter' for position)

(xxiii) Jeans are the last rage of young generation.

(Use 'latest' in place of 'last')

Note : In sentence (vii) & (viii) 'less' has been used in place of 'few' (number) because 'definite numerical adjectives + plural nouns' are followed by 'less'.

Rule VI

When two adjectives qualify the same noun, both the adjectives should be expressed in the same degree. *e.g.*,

(i) She is the most active and energetic social worker in our club.

(Use 'most' before 'energetic')

(ii) She is both cleverer and intelligent than her sister.

(Use 'more' before 'intelligent')

Rule VII

Ordinal is placed before numerical adjective. *eg.*,

(i) You must study the two first chapters of the book.

(Use 'the first two')

(ii) The two or last three lessons of your book are worth reading.

(Use 'The last two or three')

Rule VIII

The comparative adjectives ending in 'er' (i.e. cleverer) should be used as 'more clever' while comparing the two qualities of one and the same thing or a person. *e.g.*,

(i) She is cleverer than honest.

(Use 'more clever')

(ii) She is more clever than her sister.

(Use 'cleverer' in place of 'more clever')

Rule IX

The expression 'these' and 'those' should not be used with the singular nouns 'kind' 'type' and 'sort'. *e.g.*,

(i) I will not do these kind/sort of acts. (Use 'this kind/sort' for 'these kind/sort')

(ii) This type of articles are not allowed into the hall. (Use 'is' for 'are')

Rule X

Note carefully the use of 'other & else' in comparative and superlative degrees.
e.g.,

(i) She is a best teacher.

(Use 'a very good teacher')

(ii) She is the most intelligent person.

(Use 'a most' in the sense of very)

(iii) My brother is the smartest player of all others in the team. (Remove 'others')

(iv) She is better than anybody in the class.

(Use 'anybody else')

(v) The Ganga is more sacred than any river of India.

(Use 'other' after 'any')

(vi) He is the most corrupt politician than anybody in the country.

(Use 'of all' in place of 'than anybody')

- (vii) This novel is the most interesting of any in the library. (Use 'of all' in place of 'of any')
- (viii) No writer in India was so famous as R.K. Narayan. (Use 'other' after 'No')
- (ix) His condition is good today. (Say 'better' in place of 'good').
- (x) She is equally intelligent as my brother. (Use 'as' in place of 'equally')
- (xi) The Nile is longer than any other river in India. (Remove 'other')
- (xii) The Nile is longer than any other river in the world. (Correct)
- (xiii) She is taller than any other boy in the class. (Remove 'other')
- (xiv) The weather is as cold as last year. (Say 'as that of' or 'last year's')
- (xv) I found this book the most interesting. (Delete 'the')
- (xvi) Her shirt is cheaper than you. (Say 'yours'/your shirt)
- (xvii) The climate of Chennai is warmer than Delhi. (Say 'that of Delhi')

Rule XI

The use of '**all, both & whole**' as adjectives.

- (A) Place 'the' after 'all' and 'both' when used as adjectives for plural nouns. But 'the' is used before 'whole'. e.g.,
- (i) All the students were present. (Correct)
 - (ii) Both the boys left soon. (Correct)
 - (iii) Whole country is suffering from drought. (Say 'The whole')
 - (iv) All sugar is wasted. (Uncountable noun, Correct)
- (B) Place possessive case after 'all' and 'both'. e.g.,
- (i) My all efforts ended in smoke. (Say 'All my')
 - (ii) Both my friends are honest. (Correct)
 - (iii) He is a fortunate person whose all efforts succeed. (Say 'all whose')

Rule XII

'Either, neither, only, both, even, but also' should be placed immediately before the words they emphasize. (qualify/ modify). e.g.,

- (i) She not only came to see me but also to take her old books. (Use 'not only' before 'to see')
- (ii) Neither she is intelligent nor honest. (Use 'neither' before 'intelligent')
- (iii) Her sister and her brother are both living with her. (Use 'both' before 'her sister')
- (iv) Not only he likes to take coffee but also tea. (Use 'Not only' before 'coffee')

Rule XIII

'As' is used in the positive degree to denote equality while 'than' is used in the comparative degree. Both 'as' and 'than' are required to be used when a sentence contains adjectives in positive and comparative forms. e.g.,

- (i) She is as honest, if not more honest than her brother. (Incorrect)
- She is as honest as, if not more honest than her brother. (Correct)
- (ii) I am as strong or even stronger than my foe. (Incorrect)
- I am as strong as or even stronger than my foe. (Correct)

Rule XIV

When two adjectives require different prepositions, appropriate prepositions should be used with both adjectives. e.g.,

- (i) He is senior and older than I.
- (ii) His dress is different and cheaper than mine.
- (iii) She is stronger and younger than her sister.

(Use 'to' after 'senior')
 (Use 'from' after 'different')
 (Correct)

Rule XV

Place an adjective after noun when the noun is followed by preposition. e.g.,

- (i) The subject is a worthy matter of note.
- (ii) He is a suitable man for any post.

(Say 'matter worthy of')
 (Say the 'man suitable for any post')

Rule XVI**Comparison of weight, quantity & number.**

No comparison is implied in the following sentences, when there is 'time' used for comparison. So positive degree is used. e.g.

But we use comparative degree when the sentence is without 'times'

- (i) My book is three times cheaper than yours.
- (ii) Your income is many times higher than Tushar's.
- (iii) This book is five rupees cheaper than yours.
- (iv) This table is ten kilos lighter than that.

(Say 'as cheap as')
 (Incorrect, say 'as high as')
 (Correct)
 (Correct)

Rule XVII

The following adjectives cannot be used before nouns (attributively), 'Afraid, asleep, due, ready, unable, alike, aware, glad, sorry, well, alone, ill, sure', worth. e.g.,

'Ill man, asleep boy, alone lady, afraid man, alike situation' are wrong expressions.

- (i) She alone is responsible for my problems.
- (ii) I found a boy asleep.
- (iii) The man is ill.
- (iv) The man is afraid of my dog.
- (v) This book is worth reading.

(Correct)
 (Correct)
 (Correct)
 (Correct)
 (Correct)

Rule XVIII**The order of adjectives qualifying a noun (S S A C N M)**

Size → Shape → Age → Colour → Nationality → Material → Noun

- (i) Twenty year old black American Negro.
- (ii) A small Indian Stadium.
- (iii) A big round black Indian plastic table.
- (iv) A spacious dark cell.
- (v) A large glass room.

Work Book Exercise (A)

Directions : Spot the errors, if any, in the following sentences—

1. There were no less than fifty persons in the dining hall.
2. Few remarks that he made were offensive to my brother.
3. It is a worth seeing movie and you must not miss it.
4. Of all the students Rita was less worried when the date for the annual examination was announced.
5. Even the most perfect person in the world is said to have erred when there was time to act.
6. I was surprised to see every student sitting quietly in the class, even though the teacher was not present.
7. Whole India expressed anger over the hijacking of Air India Boeing Jet by militant at Karachi.
8. I like him because he is the most interesting fellow because of his amiable nature.
9. The meeting was postponed because only the few persons were present there.
10. In the opinion of everyone she is wiser than beautiful.
11. The tiger is swifter than any animal.
12. He had to cut a sorry figure when he realised that he had no any money in his purse.
13. Of the three ministers, which, do you think, is going to prove more successful.
14. Neither she is intelligent nor hard working and still she expects to secure first class.
15. I requested him to lend me few books that might help me in my study.
16. Your essay should not exceed more than two hundred words.
17. Tanya is more intelligent than any other boy in her class.
18. The two last pictures of a very competent director have not proved a success.
19. He is the tallest than anybody in our team.
20. Nobody likes him because he is a worst teacher.
21. I was surprised to see her speak with somewhat anger.
22. My brother is elder than me although he looks younger.
23. Could you please give me any money to buy the newspaper?
24. Privatisation offers the most ideal situation for consumers because private sector is very conscious of quality.
25. Little care on your part would have made you more successful than your friend.

Work Book Exercise (B)

Directions : Spot the errors, if any, in the following sentences—

1. He is as intelligent if not more intelligent than his brother.
2. She is better than any girl that studies in our class.
3. The latest chapter of this novel is the most comprehensive of all the chapters in the book.
4. She was not punished though she came latter than I.
5. She is the best and beautiful girl of our village.
6. My book is superior than yours although it has cost me much less.
7. Of all other my neighbours he is the kindest and most considerate to others.
8. 'Arabian Nights' is the most adventurous of any books written so far.
9. The works of Shakespeare are more famous than any other English dramatist.

10. It is all the more better if you work in my company.
11. These kind of roses are very popular.
12. He doesn't need your help because he is too intelligent.
13. Modinagar is further from Dehradun than Meerut.
14. It was bitter cold and we preferred not to go out that night.
15. No animal is so sacred to the Hindus as the cow is.
16. The food tasted deliciously and we enjoyed it to our fill.
17. She is as clever if not cleverer than her mother.
18. She went to the wholesale market and bought cheap vegetables.
19. There is no other name more glorious than Sardar Patel in the history of India.
20. He only is responsible for the problems which I am facing today.
21. Mr. Chopra is more senior to me in service.
22. The boys prefer playing cricket to hockey.
23. Because of her frank nature I like her the most.
24. She has not broken the window. Somebody has broken it.
25. There are five members less in the committee.
26. The rain was plenty last year and we had good time.
27. They travelled from one corner of the island to another.
28. The apple was quite raw and it was not tasted by the children.
29. He will spend his remaining life with his daughter.
30. She is a young lady of twenty five years old.