
PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

Overhead #15

ADJECTIVES

What is an ADJECTIVE?

An adjective is a word which describes or modifies a noun.

What does *modify* mean?

Essentially, *to modify* means *to change*.

When we say that an adjective modifies a noun we mean that the adjective changes the noun in some way.

Example:

Noun: a man

Notice how each adjective modifies or changes the image of the noun:

an *old* man

a *young* man

a *handsome* man

an *ugly* man

a *fat* man

a *thin* man

a *stingy* man

a *generous* man.

In each case the reader's image of the man has been changed or modified by the writer's choice of adjective.

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EXERCISE 17: RECOGNIZING ADJECTIVES

Underline the adjectives in each of the following sentences. Then draw an arrow from each adjective to the noun it modifies.

1. An angry child is not a happy child.
2. It was a dark and stormy night.
3. My grandmother cannot stand loud music because it hurts her sensitive ears.
4. Because Charles Dickens came from a poor family, he never received a formal education.
5. Good dishwashers will even clean the greasiest plates.
6. Elaine's favorite sport is hockey because she likes the fast pace of the game.
7. When we first saw Rags, he was the dirtiest dog we had ever seen.
8. Giant tortoises can live for many years.
9. Aladdin was a young beggar whose future was changed when he found an old lamp in a strange, dark cave.
10. *The Simpsons* is one of the funniest shows on television.
11. The moon is a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.
12. Winnie-the-Pooh is a cute little bear which small children love.
13. Dumbo was a stubborn elephant who became the lovable star of the circus.
14. Last summer, we enjoyed staying in our rustic cottage where we watched the gold and red sun set over the lake.
15. Mr. Jones grows luscious tomatoes and beans in his garden.

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Overhead #16

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

What does COMPARISON mean?

If we *compare* two things, we show how they are alike.
Adjectives may help us to *compare* two or more nouns.

Example: Mary is taller than her brother.

DEGREES OF COMPARISON

There are three degrees of comparison:

1. POSITIVE: shows no comparison:

Example: Mary is tall.

2. COMPARATIVE: compares two nouns:

Example: Mary is taller than her brother.

3. SUPERLATIVE: compares three or more nouns:

Example: Mary is the tallest in her family.

FORMING COMPARISONS: REGULAR ADJECTIVES

Normally we form the Comparative Degree by adding *er* to an adjective.

Normally we form the Superlative Degree by adding *est* to an adjective.

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EXERCISE 21: COMPARISON OF REGULAR ADJECTIVES

Complete the chart with the positive, comparative or superlative degree of the adjective.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
1. big		
2.	sharper	
3.		oldest
4. hot		
5.	longer	
6. poor		
7.		prettiest
8. short		
9.		highest
10. funny		

EXERCISE 22: COMPARISON OF REGULAR ADJECTIVES

In the space provided, write three sentences, using the positive, comparative and superlative degrees (one in each sentence) of either: **heavy** or **fast**.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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Overhead #17

COMPARISON OF IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES

Although most adjectives form
the Comparative Degree by adding *er*
and the Superlative Degree by adding *est*,
some do not:
These are **IRREGULAR** adjectives.

IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES
form the Comparative by adding the word **MORE**
and the Superlative by adding the word **MOST**.

Example: *courteous, more courteous, most courteous*

It would be silly to say *courteouser* or *courteousest*.

Some regular adjectives may also form comparison in this way:

friendly, friendlier, friendliest is correct
so is: *friendly, more friendly, most friendly*.

Some **IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES** change form completely.

Examples: *good, better, best* or *bad, worse, worst*.

Some **ADJECTIVES** cannot be compared.

Example: *Unique* means *one of a kind*. Therefore, nothing
can be *more unique* or *unique*.

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EXERCISE 23: USING ADJECTIVES CORRECTLY

In the blank provided, write the correct form of the adjective stated before each sentence.

1. *bad* I played monopoly even _____ the second time.
2. *happy* Anthony looks _____ than Joe in this picture.
3. *successful* *Titanic* was the _____ movie in Hollywood history.
4. *heavy* Is a kilogram of lead _____ than a kilogram of feathers?
5. *rich* My culture has one of the _____ traditions in the world.
6. *good* Erin's mark in Science is usually her _____.
7. *small* The amoeba is probably the _____ living creature.
8. *cheap* Volkswagen used to make the _____ cars in Canada.
9. *expensive* The Hope Diamond is perhaps the _____ jewel.
10. *effective* My doctor wanted me to try a _____ treatment.
11. *famous* Agatha Christie is probably the _____ mystery writer in the world.
12. *young* Geraldine is the _____ of the two sisters.
13. *simple* Alicia looks for the _____ solution to the problem.
14. *wise* As Marvin grew older, he became _____.
15. *neat* Maria's work is _____ than mine.
16. *useful* A vacuum cleaner is _____ than a broom.
17. *tall* The CN Tower is the _____ structure in the world.
18. *kind* My grandfather is the _____ man I have ever known.
19. *intelligent* A pig is _____ than a goat.
20. *tough* This is the _____ problem I have ever faced.

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REVIEW TEST #3: ADJECTIVES (20 marks)

1. Underline the adjective in each of the following sentences. Then draw an arrow to the noun it modifies: (8 marks)

- a) William Shakespeare was a famous poet even before he wrote plays.
- b) Avalanches can cause great problems for skiers.
- c) I have always disliked being in a dark room.
- d) Don't cry over spilled milk.

2. Fill in the chart with the comparative and superlative degrees of the adjectives listed. (6 marks)

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
a) small		
b) good		
c) happy		

3. In the blank provided, write the correct form of the adjective stated before each sentence. (6 marks)

- a) *cheap* A VCR is _____ than a television set.
- b) *bad* Tuesday was the _____ day of my life.
- c) *useful* The _____ tool in my kit is the hammer.
- d) *young* Arlene is the _____ student in the class.
- e) *sharp* The bread knife is the _____ one we own.
- f) *expensive* Diamonds are _____ than gold.