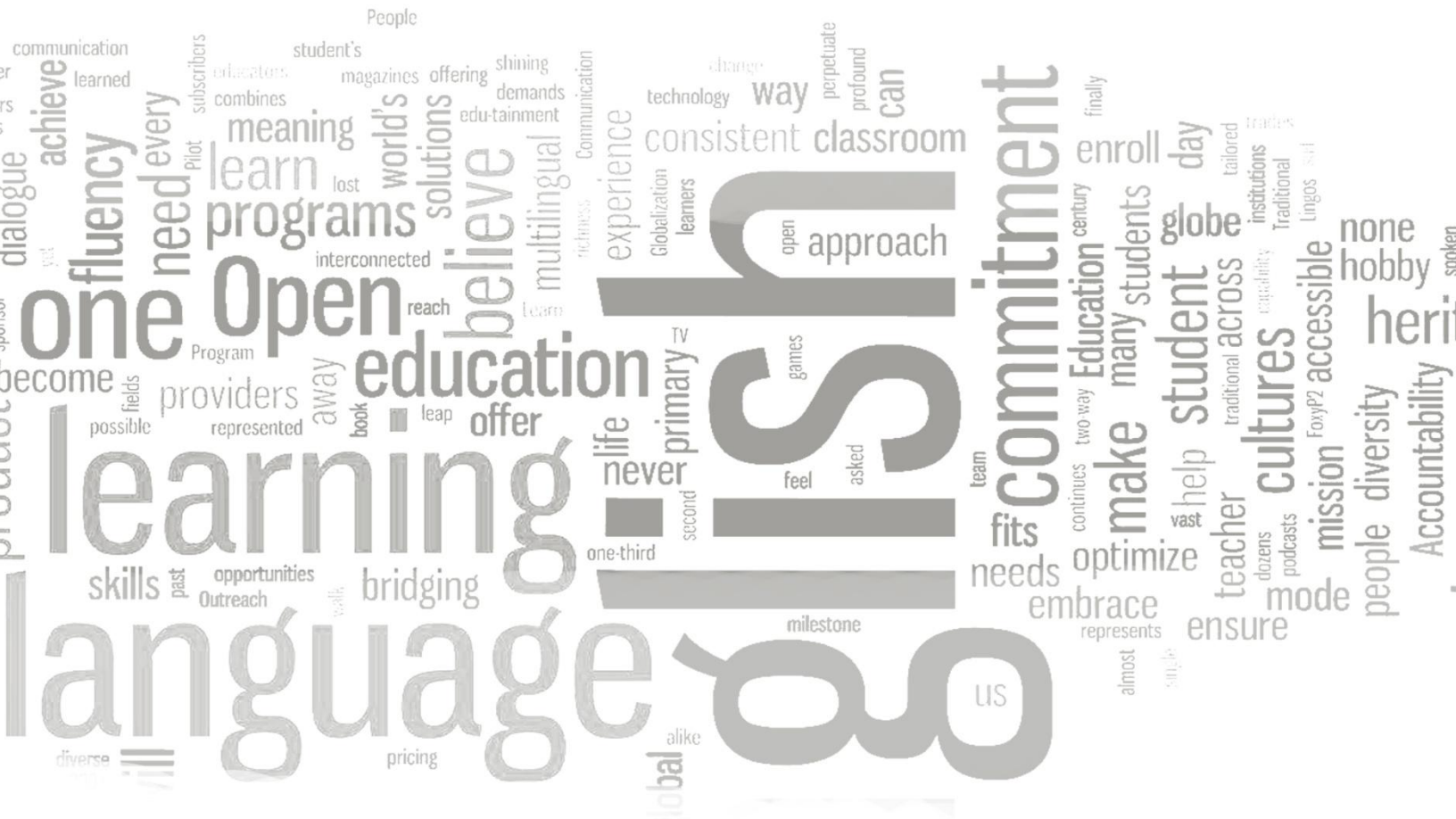


ENGLISH



Degrees of Comparison

What is Comparison?

Comparison is a way of putting side by side the quality or quantity of two or more things or persons using adjectives or adverbs. The grammatical structure of **comparison** has three degrees:

1. Positive degree
2. Comparative degree
3. Superlative degree

Let us understand how these degrees are used to compare adjectives and adverbs.

The Positive Degree

The positive degree is used to draw a comparison at a same level.

- Sita was **as angry as** Kiran when the food arrived late.
- This glass looks ordinary, but it is **as sturdy as** the one you paid so much money for.
- Sunita jumped **as high as** she could to dodge the collapsing pipes.

The positive degree is formed by using the **adjective** or the **adverb** with the correlative conjunctions 'as...as'.

The Comparative Degree

The comparative degree is used to compare two unequal qualities or quantities.

- The people of Denmark are said to be **happier than** those of Australia according to a global survey.
- The city was **quieter than** the lonely woods during winter.

The comparative degree is formed by adding the suffix '-er' + 'than' to the **adjective** or the **adverb**.

However, for some adjectives and adverbs, instead of the suffix, the words 'more' or 'less' are used to show the comparative form.

- Imran was **more familiar** with the city **than** his brother. (≠ familiarer)
- The man sitting in the corner is **more deserving** for the role **than** the chatty son of the company owner.
- After his son's death, the king was **less interested** in the affairs of the state **than** before.
- Drug abuse made the athlete **less active than** his peers during the tournament. (≠ activer)

Finally, the comparative forms of some irregular adjectives and adverbs are completely different from the original.

- My mother's office is as **far** as my uncle's from my school.
- My mother's office is **farther** than the school.

The Superlative Degree

The superlative degree is used to show the highest or the lowest quality or quantity of an **adverb** or an **adjective**.

- *Natasha is **the warmest** person in our family.*
- *This fabric here in the basket is **the softest** silk money can buy you in China.*

The superlative is formed by adding the suffix '-est' to the **adjective** or the **adverb**.

The superlative forms of some irregular adjectives and adverbs are completely different from the original.

- *This year's summer was **the worst** with additional power cuts and water scarcity.*
- *Vidarbha will be **the most** affected by deficit rainfall this year.*

Note the use of **the** before the words used in the superlative form. Superlative adjectives and adverbs take the definite article before them as the superlative form is only one of a series.

Special Adjectives

Some adjectives are special and can have two forms of comparison:

- -er/est
- more/most

Let us look at some examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
common	commoner/more common	commonest/most common
likely	likelier/more likely	likeliest/most likely
clever	cleverer/more clever	cleverest/most clever
pleasant	pleasanter/more pleasant	pleasantest/most pleasant
subtle	subtler/more subtle	subtlest/most subtle
polite	politer/more polite	politest/most polite
sure	surer/more sure	surest/most sure
stupid	stupider/more stupid	stupidest/most stupid
quiet	quieter/more quiet	quietest/most quiet
simple	simpler/more simple	simplest/most simple

Examples

1. Add 'er' and 'est'			2. Double the final consonants		
Positive	Comparative	Superlative	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
wide	wider	widest	big	biggest	biggest
sharp	sharper	sharpest	sad	saddest	saddest
bold	bolder	boldest	thin	thinner	thinnest
light	lighter	lightest	fat	fatter	fattest
3. Add 'r' and 'st'			4. Delete the final 'y' and add 'ier' and 'iest'		
Positive	Comparative	Superlative	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
pale	paler	palest	hazy	hazier	haziest
brave	braver	bravest	costly	costlier	costliest
noble	nobler	noblest	wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest
fine	finer	finest	dry	drier	driest

5. Comparison using 'more' and 'most'		
Positive	Comparative	Superlative
handsome	more handsome	(the) most handsome
cruel	more cruel	(the) most cruel
beautiful	more beautiful	(the) most beautiful
carefully	more carefully	(the) most carefully

6. Irregular adjectives and adverbs		
Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
well	better	best
badly	worse	worst
many	more	most
much	more	most
little	less	least
far	further	furthest
far	farther	farthest