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# Mastering

# GRAMMAR

A BOOK OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

CLASS  
**8**

PRONOUN  
NOUN  
PREPOSITION  
CONSONANT  
ADJECTIVE  
ADVERB  
VERB



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# 1

## SENTENCES AND PHRASES

### SENTENCE

A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense by itself.

- Examples : (a) John works hard.  
(b) I like to read books.

### FEATURES

- A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense.
- It begins with a capital letter.
- It ends with a full stop **.**, an exclamation mark **!** or a question mark **?**.

### PARTS OF SENTENCE

Every sentence has two parts namely a **subject** and a **predicate**.

### SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

- (a) **The subject is the first part of a sentence that tells what a sentence is about.**  
(b) **The predicate is the second part of a sentence that says something about the subject.**

Example : Roma reads a book.  
                  subject           predicate

### FEATURES

The **subject** is always a noun or a pronoun or a group of words that does the work of a noun.

- Examples : (a) **The old palace** is considered haunted.  
(b) **All the boys** are in the ground.

The **predicate** may consist of one word or several words with the essential word being a verb.

Example : My dress **is beautiful**.

The verb is the essential word in the predicate.

### A. Identify the *subject* and the *predicate*.

1. Meena has come first in the race.
2. Lazy boys come last.
3. The sun rises in the east.
4. The foolish crow tried to be the peacock.
5. My parents and my brother have gone to the market.
6. I have met Raman's father.
7. Thousands of trees have been cut to construct the stadium.
8. The teacher gave him a prize.

**Hint :** Identify the verb and ask **what** or **who** before it. The answer would be the subject.



## OBJECT

When the verb in the predicate is a transitive verb, it requires an object to complete its sense. For example, when we say **I throw**, it does not make complete sense. The verb **throw** requires an object such as **a ball** to make complete sense.

- Examples :** (a) I throw a ball. (makes complete sense)  
(b) I **sing** a song  
(c) You should learn **swimming**.

## DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECT

**Example :** The teacher gave sweets to the children.  
verb      direct object      indirect object

Here, the verb **gave** takes two objects – **sweets** and (the) **children**.

- (i) The noun answering **what** after the verb is called the **direct object** of the verb. (sweets)  
(ii) The noun naming the person for whom something is done, is the **indirect object** of the verb. ([the] children)

**B. Circle the direct objects and underline the indirect objects, if any, in the following sentences.**

1. I bought a cycle for my brother.
2. The teacher told them a story.
3. Please buy me a school bag.
4. She gave a good advice.
5. She gave him a gift.
6. Father gave the guard his salary.
7. I have a Chinese pencil box.
8. The class listened to the story with full attention.
9. Please accept my apology.
10. He taught Rita History.

**Hint :** Ask **what** after the verb for the direct object and ask **for/from/to/whom** after the verb for the indirect object.



## THE COMPLEMENT

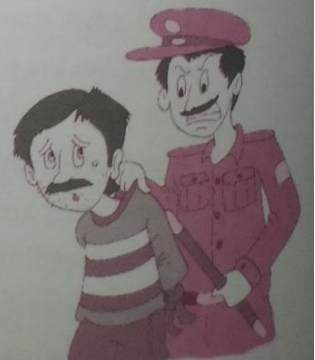
When the verb in the predicate is an intransitive verb it requires an additional word or words to complete its meaning. The word or group of words required to complete the predicate is called a complement.

- Examples :** (a) The baby was **alert**.  
(b) People are **in the hall**.

Intransitive verbs are those which do not have an object.

**C. Circle the complements, if any, in the following sentences.**

1. Juhi acted well.
2. The man seems tired.
3. Mrs Sharma is very ill.
4. She looks beautiful in her blue dress.
5. We will sing a song.
6. Ram is a polite child.
7. The police caught the thief.
8. John bought a wrist watch for himself.



## TYPES OF SENTENCES

Sentences can be divided into different types on the basis of their meanings.

### DECLARATIVE

Declarative sentences make statements or some kind of observation. They are of two types :

#### AFFIRMATIVE

These sentences simply say or state something.

*Example :* I like to eat mangoes.

#### NEGATIVE

These sentences express a negative meaning.

*Example :* I do not go to school.

### INTERROGATIVE

An interrogative sentence asks a question and is formed by putting the auxiliary verb before the noun or by beginning the sentence with a **wh** word and ending it with a question mark '?'.

*Example :* Don't you like reading?

'wh' words are 'what', 'where', 'who', 'whom', 'which' and so on.

### IMPERATIVE

Imperative sentences express requests, commands, advices or suggestions.

(In such sentences the subject is invariably the second person pronoun (you), which is generally implied).

*Examples :* (a) Go to your room. (command)

(b) Please don't call me. (request)

### EXCLAMATORY

Such sentences express sudden, strong feelings like surprise, delight, disgust and grief.

An exclamatory sentence ends with an exclamation mark.

*Example :* What a beautiful sight!

**D.** Tick (✓) the correct options to identify the given sentences. Then, add punctuation marks accordingly at the end.

1. How beautiful is the day (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
2. Sachin is a great cricketer (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
3. What on earth are you doing (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
4. I cannot believe him to be the murderer (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
5. Do you want coffee (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
6. Cats catch mice (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
7. Elephants have a good memory (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)
8. What a beautiful view of the mountains (imperative, declarative, exclamatory, interrogative)



## PHRASE

A phrase is made up of a group of words that makes sense but not complete sense. It does not have a subject and a predicate.

**Example :** My friend is a good football player.

In the given example, the two groups of words 'My friend' and 'a good football player' are phrases. Though they convey some meaning, they do not make complete sense by themselves.

Here are some more examples of phrases.

- (a) in spite of      (b) in a corner      (c) pink in colour      (d) at the shop

## FEATURES

- Phrases do not have a subject or a predicate.
- They cannot stand by themselves.
- Phrases do not make complete sense.

## TYPES OF PHRASES

A phrase can act as an adjective, a noun or an adverb. There are commonly three types of phrases.

1. Noun phrase
2. Adjective phrase
3. Adverb phrase

## NOUN PHRASE

A noun phrase is one that acts as a noun in a sentence.

**Examples :** (a) He expected to reach home early.

If we ask: 'what did he expect?', the answer we get is to reach home early. This group of words acts as a noun. It does not have a finite verb. So, it is a noun phrase. Here are more examples :

- (b) He wanted to learn Sanskrit.      (c) I like to sing.  
(d) His hobby is making sketches. ('making' is not a finite verb here)

**Underline the noun phrase :**

1. She hopes to win the first prize.
3. I saw the big crowd.

## ADJECTIVE PHRASE

An adjective phrase is a group of words that acts as an adjective in a sentence.

**Examples :**

- (a) Flowers, with good fragrance, have been used for decoration.  
(adjective phrase describing the flowers)

- (b) Rohan, a boy with courage, fought with the thief.

**Underline the adjective phrases and circle the nouns they modify. The first one has been done for you.**

1. The girl, in the pink dress, is known to me.
2. The watchman, on duty that day, tried to stop the thief from entering the shop.



3. The player from Rajasthan failed to live up to our expectation.
4. The fruits from our garden are fresh and tasty.

### ADVERB PHRASE

A group of words that performs the function of an adverb in a sentence is called an adverb phrase.

**Example :** Jane walked on the stage very gracefully.  
(adverb phrase modifying the verb **walked**)

There are different types of adverb phrases :

1. **Adverb phrases of manner** tell us how the action is done.

**Example :** She smiled **in a warm manner**.

2. **Adverb phrases of place** tell us where the action is done.

**Example :** We were looking for you **in every possible place**.

3. **Adverb phrases of time** tell us when the action is done.

**Example :** Flowers emit fragrance **during the day**.



**G. Identify the adverb phrase, its type (manner, time, place) and circle the verb it modifies.**

1. Our team took defeat in a generous manner.
2. I supported the Indian team with all my heart.
3. Children like to play every evening.
4. In those days, my dad used to keep long hair.

**H. Circle the phrases in the following sentences and identify whether they are adjective, adverb or noun phrases.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. I looked for the pen in every possible place. | 2. The match will be held in this park.       |
| 3. The carpet is made in India.                  | 4. I love to read comics.                     |
| 5. She is a girl of five years.                  | 6. The car moved at great speed.              |
| 7. We found him in the living room.              | 8. The lady with golden hair is my friend.    |
| 9. My friend from Dubai is with me.              | 10. The book with illustrations is expensive. |

### REMEMBER

A phrase is a group of words that makes sense but not a complete sense. A phrase does not have a subject or a predicate and it cannot stand by itself. There are three types of phrases :

- (a) Noun Phrase      (b) Adjective Phrase      (c) Adverb Phrase

#### Phrases

- Phrases that do the work of a noun/act as a noun are called *noun phrases*.
- Phrases that do the work of an adjective/acts as an adjective are called *adjective phrases*.

**Examples :** (a) We all love **eating ice-creams**.

(b) Incense sticks **made of Sandal Powder** were distributed among the devotees.

- Phrases that perform the function of an adverb are called *adverb phrases*.

**Example :** The lady spoke **in a kind manner**.

# 2

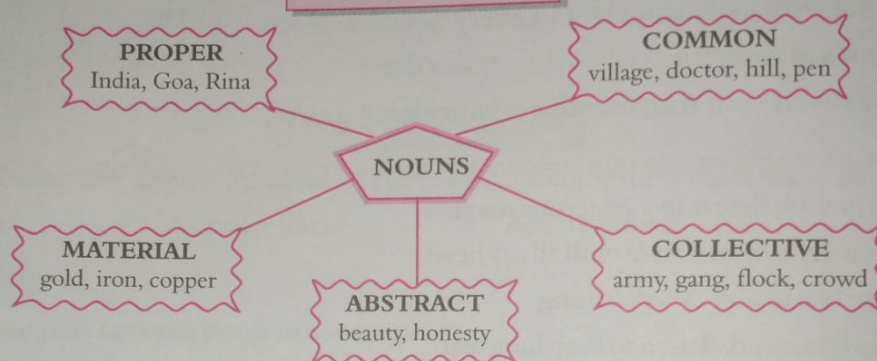
## NOUNS AND PRONOUNS

### NOUNS

Nouns are naming words for things, people, places, animals and even qualities or ideas.

Examples : town, water, pain, comb, lamb

### KINDS OF NOUNS

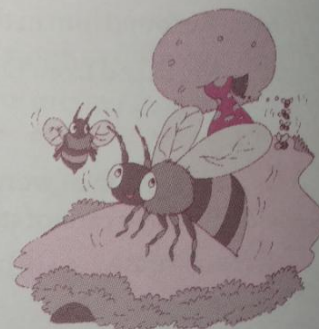


A. Fill in the blanks with *nouns* given in the box and write their types.

Example : The **innocence** of a child attracts me. (abstract)

swarm    milk    sincerity    army    park    gold    boys    music    tolerance    intelligence

- Two litres of ..... is sufficient for making the pudding.
- A ..... of bees gathered in the garden.
- The ..... marched to the battlefield.
- Her ..... was appreciated by the teacher.
- The project has been prepared by the ..... of class VIII.
- The audience enjoyed the .....
- The children are playing in the .....
- Her bangles are made of .....
- If we had ..... many problems would have been solved.
- Sachin's ..... has made him what he is today.



### COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

#### Countable Nouns

- These are nouns that can be counted.

Examples : books, bags, chairs



## Uncountable Nouns

- These are nouns that denote materials, substances, ideas or concepts which cannot be counted.

*Examples :* cotton, wood, luggage, rice, sugar

Countable Nouns	Uncountable Nouns
river, town, class, group, sheet of paper, a grain of rice, a litre of water	India, Cochin, (proper noun only one of a kind), Rita, kindness, milk, copper, stone, mud, beauty, memory, joy, rice, water
Words generally used with them are one, two, a few, many, some	Words generally used with these are a little, much, some

### FEATURES

Certain nouns can be both countable or uncountable.

*Examples :* (a) We have bought too many cakes for the occasion. (Countable)

(b) I am hungry, please, give me some cake. (Uncountable)

Similarly nouns like **experience, adventure, fish, tea** can be used as countable or uncountable nouns depending on the sentences.

*Examples :* (a) Give me a cup of tea. (Countable)

(b) The adventure was exciting. (Countable)

(c) He is fond of adventure. (Uncountable)

### B. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of nouns given in brackets.

1. We should give ..... to the poor. (alm/alms)
2. It is not easy to break these doors made of ..... (iron/irons)
3. Please buy two ..... (juice cans/juices) from the store.
4. Do you like ..... ? (fish/fishes)
5. He was giving her ..... (advice/advice) when the phone rang.

### NOUN-CASE

Nouns may be used as the subject or the object of a verb in a sentence. It may also be used to show possession.

#### (a) Subjective or Nominative Case

- When a noun is the subject of a verb, it is said to be in the subjective case.

*Examples :* (a) subject  
↓ India verb won the match against Australia. (b) All the subjective case boys verb brought verb books.

The noun 'India' is the subject of the sentence (a), hence it is in the subjective case.

A noun in the nominative case answers the questions 'who' or 'what' with respect to the sentence.

### C. Identify the nouns in the subjective case in these sentences :

1. Her new dress looks beautiful.
2. Saurabh Mehta is the captain of a large ship.
3. The naughty boys played a prank on their new friend.

**Hint :** Ask 'who' or 'what' before the verb.

4. Jack and Jill went up the hill.
5. The Prime Minister announced the names of his new cabinet members.

(b) Objective Case

- When a noun plays the role of a direct object of a verb in a sentence, it is said to be in the 'objective case'.

Examples : (a) India won the match against Australia. (b) She stitched a dress.

verb { direct object }  
 verb { objective case }

A noun in the objective case answers the question 'what' or 'whom' after the verb.

(D) Identify the nouns in the objective case :

1. I bought a computer for my brother.
2. The hunter killed the tiger.
3. I arranged the books on the rack.
4. The fielder dropped the ball.
5. My mother gifted a bracelet on my birthday.

**Hint :** Ask 'what' after the verb.

(c) Dative Case

- When a noun or a pronoun plays the role of an indirect object in a sentence, it is said to be in the dative case.

Examples : (a) India won the match against Australia.

verb { direct } { indirect object } { dative case }  
 verb { direct } { indirect object } { dative case }

(b) He gave me a book.

verb { indirect object } { direct object }  
 verb { indirect object } { direct object }

A noun in the dative case answers the question 'to/for/from/whom' after the verb.

(E) Identify the nouns in the dative case.

1. He gave Rani a gift.
2. Farida sang a song for Raj.
3. Have you purchased a mobile phone for your sister?
4. Rani returned the groom his shoes after an hour.
5. When will you give Ragini your books?

**Hint :** Ask 'to/for/ from/whom' after the verb.

(d) Possessive Case

- When a noun or a pronoun shows possession or ownership it is said to be in the possessive case.

Examples : (a) Mary's dress is very beautiful. (b) The girls' books are covered. (c) The children's books are here.

noun { possessive case }  
 noun { possessive case }  
 noun { possessive case }

Possessive

- A noun in the possessive case answers the question 'whose' in a sentence.
- A possessive noun is marked by an apostrophe usually when it refers to living things and personified objects.

(F) Use apostrophe to change the following to the possessive form :

1. Please give me the CD of the songs sung by Lata.
2. The house owned by my sister-in-law would be up for sale very soon.
3. The new book written by Vikram Seth has become very popular.



4. Raj went to get medicine from the doctor of the colony.
5. I love the poems written by Tagore.

### RULES OF POSSESSIVE CASE

- Words ending in an -s or having a hissing sound, usually have the letter -s omitted and only an apostrophe is added.  
**Examples :** (a) The luggage of Lewis : Lewis' luggage  
(b) The story of the witness : the witness' story
- A noun when is in the plural form and ends in -s, forms a possessive case by adding only an apostrophe.  
**Example :** The schools of the girls : the girls' schools.
- A noun when is in the plural form but does not end in -s, an apostrophe and -s is used.  
**Example :** The institutes of the women : the women's institutes.
- A noun when comprises more than one word, the apostrophe and -s are usually put at the end of the last word.  
**Example :** The dress of the daughter-in-law : the daughter-in-law's dress
- Two nouns when are closely connected, the apostrophe and -s are used with the noun that comes second.  
**Example :** The teacher of Allan and Alice : Allan and Alice's teacher.
- About the separate possessions of two nouns (we want to write or talk), each of them takes an apostrophe and -s.  
**Example :** The belongings of Abdul and the belongings of Aman : Abdul's and Aman's belongings.

### PRONOUNS

**Pronouns are parts of speech that are used to replace nouns in sentences.**

**Example :** The books kept on the table are **mine**. She can read **them**.

#### Types of Pronouns

1. **Personal Pronouns :** Personal pronouns are those pronouns which replace nouns. They may function as the subject or the object in a sentence.

**Examples :** 'I', 'we', 'he', 'she' and 'they' are used as subjects.

'Me', 'us', 'him', 'her' and 'them' are used as objects.

**Personal Pronouns are of two types.**

- (i) **Subjective personal pronouns :** pronouns that refer to subjects in sentences.
- (ii) **Objective personal pronouns :** pronouns that refer to object in sentences.

**Example :** We play with them.

subjective

objective

**We** - is a subjective pronoun.

**Them** - is an objective pronoun.

### REMEMBER

	Subjective	Objective
First Person	I we	me us

Second Person	you	you
Third Person	he she it they	him her it them

**G** Underline the personal pronouns in the given sentences and write 's' under subjective personal pronouns and 'o' under objective personal pronouns.

**Example :** You always help your friends. Your friends also help you.

- They treated us warmly.
- Where are the children? I saw them in the garden.
- I am studying in class eight.
- You can easily drop me home.

**Hint :** Subjective pronouns are the 'who' or 'what' the sentence is about. Objective pronouns are the 'who' or 'what' is acted upon.

- 2. Possessive Pronouns :** Possessive pronouns are those pronouns that indicate possession or relationship.  
**Example :** This house is hers.

**REMEMBER**

First Person	→	I, we	→	mine, ours
Second Person	→	you	→	yours
Third Person	→	he, she, them	→	hers, his, theirs

**'It' does not have any possessive pronoun form.**

**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS AND POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES**

Possessive pronouns are often confused with possessive adjectives. The difference between the two are as follows :

<p><b>Possessive Pronouns</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They show possession by standing instead of nouns.</li> <li>2. Replace nouns as they are used instead of nouns.</li> <li>3. Possessive pronouns are mine yours hers ours theirs</li> </ol>	<p><b>Possessive Adjectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They indicate possession by qualifying a noun. They are placed before nouns.</li> <li>2. Placed before nouns, e.g., my book, his car</li> <li>3. Possessive adjectives are my your his her our their its</li> </ol>
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The following examples will help you understand the difference.

**Examples :** (a) This is not Ravi's book. **His** book is new. (possessive adjective)  
(b) This is not Ravi's book. **His** is new. (possessive pronoun)

In example (a), 'His' describes the noun 'book' to show possession hence it is a possessive adjective. It is also placed before the noun 'book'.

In example (b) 'His' replaces the noun 'book', hence 'his', is a possessive pronoun.

**H** **Change the possessive adjectives to possessive pronouns and rewrite.**

**Example :** This is **my** picture. This picture is **mine**.

1. That is my car. 2. This is his idea. 3. These are my crayons.
4. This is not our rabbit. 5. These are her dolls.

3. **Demonstrative pronouns** are used to point out the object or objects they indicate.

**Examples :** (a) **This** is a beautiful vase. (b) **That** was a good joke.

4. **Interrogative pronouns** are used for asking questions.

**Examples :** (a) **What** is your name? (b) **Which** is your bag? (c) **Who** got this packet?

Interrogative adjectives are words like what, which, whose, etc. They are always placed before nouns. (Whose book have you got? The word 'whose' is an interrogative adjective here.)

5. **Reflexive and emphatic pronouns** are used when the action done by the subject reflects on the subject.

**Examples :** (a) I made some tea for **myself**. (b) They were blaming **themselves** for the defeat.

6. **Indefinite pronouns** stand for some nouns implied or understood.

**Examples :** (a) Though the food was stale **nobody** complained. (b) **No one** came to the auditorium.  
(c) **All** were waiting for the announcement.

7. **Reciprocal pronouns** are words like **each other** and **one another**. They refer to an action occurring in one direction and also back in the opposite direction.

**Examples :** (a) They play with **each other**.

(b) The children looked at **one another** when surprise gifts were given.

8. **Distributive pronouns** refer to persons or things one at a time and are always singular.

**Examples :** (a) **Either** of you can come with me. (b) **Neither** of the girls is tired.

9. **Relative pronouns** are used to add information about a noun already mentioned and also help in joining two statements together. They are words like who, whom, whose, which, that.

**I** **Choose the appropriate reciprocal and distributive pronouns from the brackets and complete the sentences.**

1. .... of the men received an award. (Either, Neither)
2. Rita and Sita have known ..... for many years. (each one, each other)
3. .... of you can come along with me. (Either, Neither)
4. .... of my classmates came to meet me when I was not well. (Each, Either)

**J** **Correct the following sentences and rewrite them.**

1. I saw the boy what was wearing a funny dress. 2. We have brought some fruit with ourselves.
3. This is not mine pen. 4. I cannot find myself pen.
5. We did the work themselves. 6. With who are you going to see the movie?
7. Rita, Seema and myself are good friends?

# 3

## ADJECTIVES AND DEGREES OF COMPARISON

An adjective is a word that tells us more about a noun or pronoun including its quality, quantity and position.

*Example :* His car is new.

### KINDS OF ADJECTIVES

- Adjectives of quality** : describe size, colour, shape of a person or object  
*Examples: fair, tall*
- Adjectives of quantity** : refer to the quantity (how much) of a thing  
*Examples: some, much*
- Adjectives of number** : tell how many persons or things are meant  
*Examples: five, several*
- Demonstrative adjectives** : point to a person or thing  
*Examples: this, that, these*
- Interrogative adjectives** : ask questions  
*Examples: what, whose, which*
- Possessive adjectives** : show possession or belonging  
*Examples: my, our, your*
- Proper adjectives** : are formed from proper nouns  
*Examples: Indian, Buddhist*
- Emphasising adjectives** : increase or decrease the effect of the noun they are modifying  
*Examples: utter, absolute*
- Participle adjectives** : are verbs used as adjectives  
*Examples: running train, flying saucer*
- Nouns as adjectives** : some nouns are used as adjectives.  
*Examples: diamond ring, stone wall*

#### A. Identify the adjectives and mention their kinds.

*Example :* What he said is an **absolute** truth. (Emphasising adjective)

- This room has been decorated by my mother. ....
- His family invited me to the party. ....
- His grandparents are of Indian origin. ....
- Give the beggar some food. ....
- Five passengers got down from the bus. ....
- What question did the interviewer ask? ....
- These walls need whitewashing. ....
- Jackson was a popular musician. ....

### POSITION OF ADJECTIVES

1. **Attributive position** : An adjective is placed just before the noun in an attributive position. In such a position, the adjective describes the noun.

**Examples** : (a) He is an **intelligent** boy.  
(b) She is a **beautiful** lady.

2. **Predicative position** : An adjective is placed after the linking verb, such as **be, become, seem, look, appear** and so on in a predicative position.

**Examples** : (a) You look **handsome**.  
(b) He is **happy**.

**Note** : • Very often when several adjectives are attached to one noun, they may be placed after it for emphasis.

**Example** : The prince, **fearless and determined**, came to the rescue of the princess.

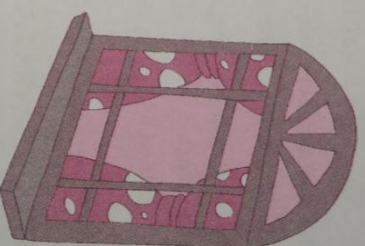
- In certain phrases, adjectives always come after the nouns.

**Examples** : Heir **apparent**, God **almighty**

- B.** **Identify the adjectives of quality and underline when they occupy attributive position and circle them when they occupy predicative position.**

**Example** : You appear horrified .

1. Harshavardhana was a just king.
2. After the exhaustive journey Jay reached home.
3. The window frame was green.
4. The blind man managed to cross the street.
5. An old man and his wife are our new neighbours.
6. The beautiful princess damaged her shoes while dancing.
7. Simi's thin frame became weak due to illness.
8. The performance of our team was brilliant.



### FORMATION OF ADJECTIVES

Adjectives can be formed by adding suffixes to words.

#### (i) From Nouns :

Nouns	Suffixes	Adjectives
boy	+ -ish	→ boyish
care	+ -ful	→ careful
gold	+ -en	→ golden
dirt	+ -y	→ dirty
sense	+ -less	→ senseless
play	+ -ful	→ playful

'Suffixes' are a group of letters placed at the end of a word.

**Examples:** '-ful', '-ish'

(ii) From Verbs :

Verbs		Suffixes		Adjectives
cease	+	less	→	ceaseless
commend	+	able	→	commendable
tire	+	less	→	tireless

**C** Make new adjectives by adding suffixes to the words given below, you may add '-ful', '-ish', '-y', and '-able'.

1. hope
2. fool
3. silk
4. comfort



### DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Degrees of comparison are different forms of adjectives.

**Adjectives have three degrees of comparison—positive, comparative and superlative.**

The positive degree is used when no comparison is made.

*Examples :* (a) He is a **good** boy. (b) She is an **industrious** student.

The comparative degree is used when the comparison is between two objects or individuals.

*Example :* She is a **better** swimmer than him. (is usually followed by **than**)

The superlative degree is used when more than two persons or objects of the same class are compared.

*Example :* He is the **best** in the class. (Superlatives are always preceded by **the**.)

Now, let us discuss the comparative degree in detail.

### THE COMPARATIVE DEGREE

Comparatives are formed by adding **-er** or **more**. We add **-er** to short words and we use **more** with longer words.

*Examples :*

(a) big	—	bigger	small	—	smaller
short	—	shorter	great	—	greater
(b) comfortable	—	more comfortable			
spacious	—	more spacious			
beautiful	—	more beautiful			

When we use comparatives to compare two things we usually mention both the things, or we may mention one and the other is implied. We often use **than** after comparatives for clear understanding.

*Examples :* (a) He is **taller** than you. (b) She speaks **louder** than her partner.  
(c) Can you run **faster**? (d) You can speak **louder** than this.  
(e) Could you jump **higher**?



**D** Complete these sentences by using an adjective in the comparative form.

1. The jug on the table is ..... than the one in the cupboard which cannot hold much water. (big)
2. He has not acted in a play earlier. They wanted someone ..... than him. (experience)
3. Rita selected a ..... pair of shoes because she did not have enough pocket money. (cheap)
4. The words of the speaker were ..... after the mike was adjusted. (clear)
5. She could have bought the ..... pair of socks which would look good with her dress. (long)

**E** Read the following examples and frame sentences with comparatives.

1. The red bus has five passengers. The blue bus has eight passengers. (few)  
The red bus has **fewer** passengers than the blue bus.
2. The apples are ripe. The guavas are not very ripe. (ripe)  
The apples are **riper** than the guavas.
3. Rohan crossed the river in ten minutes. Ram crossed the river in twenty minutes. (long)
4. Sana's house is near the park. Rani's house is not near the park. (near)
5. The green dress costs ₹ 200. The orange dress costs ₹ 300. (cheap)

**F** Look at these pictures and write sentences using *than* with the comparative form.



1. The red flower ..... the yellow one. (big)

2. Rajan is ..... than Samar. (tall)



3. The rabbit ..... than the tortoise. (lazy)

Sometimes, we use particular words before comparisons :

much                      a lot                      a bit                      slightly

- Examples :**
- (a) The two-bedroom house is **much cheaper** than a three-bedroom house.
  - (b) The gold watch was **a lot more expensive** than the ordinary watch.
  - (c) The cutlets were **a bit more spicy** than the vegetable rolls.
  - (d) This journey was **slightly more tiresome** than the previous one.

**When we compare two things and one is directly related to the other we use *the .... the* :**

- Examples :**
- (a) The **slower** you eat, the **better** will be your digestion.
  - (b) The **harder** you work, the **better** you will do.

**G** Fill in the blanks with suitable adjectives from the box.

cold    coldest    large    larger    better    bad    closer

1. In such ..... weather we cannot venture out.
2. November is ..... in Delhi but the ..... month is usually December.
3. Mrs Sharma's house is ..... than that of her neighbour.
4. "Treasure Island" is a ..... book than "Robinson Crusoe".
5. Mr Khan has built a ..... house on the hills.
6. Delhi is certainly ..... to Lucknow than Tamil Nadu.



**THE SUPERLATIVE DEGREE**

We use superlative forms when we compare more than two things.

Examples : (a) Gracy is the most active girl in the class.

(b) Neha is the tallest girl in the group.

The superlative forms are the most active and the tallest.

**FEATURES**

- ◆ We usually use **the** before a superlative form.

Examples : the hottest planet, the most comfortable bed

- ◆ After the superlative forms we use **of** when we refer to a period of time and **in** with places.

Examples : (a) Raghv is the poorest man in the village.

(b) Rashi is the most successful dancer in town.

(c) Today is the coldest day of the month.

(d) This is the happiest moment of my life.

**DOUBLE FORMS OF THE COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE OF CERTAIN ADJECTIVES**

There are certain adjectives which have forms of comparatives and superlatives as shown below.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
late	later latter	latest last
old	older elder	oldest eldest
far	farther further	farthest furthest

their Usage :

er, Latest : These words refer to time.

**Examples :** (a) The train was **late**.

(b) I had left the stadium. I met him **later**.

(c) This is the **latest** news on the issue.

**Later, Last :** They refer to position.

**Examples :** (a) The designer brought two proposals. The client approved the **latter** proposal.

(b) I was the **last** person to reach the field.

**(H)** Fill in the blanks with 'later' and 'latter'.

1. The match will start ..... than I expected
2. Among the two plans, I would prefer the former to the .....
3. I reached school ..... than usual.
4. We have postponed the meeting to a ..... date.
5. Of the two solutions, the ..... appears convincing.



**(I)** Fill in the blanks with 'latest' and 'last'.

1. .... year we met her at the exhibition.
2. I love to follow the ..... trends in fashion.
3. I was the ..... person to leave the library yesterday.
4. We are eager to know the ..... development in Japan.
5. The ..... issue of the magazine is not available.

**Old**

**Older, Oldest :** They refer to both persons and objects.

**Examples :** (a) This building is **older** than the next one.

(b) My grandfather is the **oldest** member of the club.

**Elder, eldest :** They are used only for persons and specially for members of the same family.

**Examples :** (a) Abhi is my **elder** brother.

(b) Tanima is the **eldest** of all the sisters.

'Elder' is not used with 'than'.

**(J)** Fill in the blanks with 'elder' or 'older'.

1. Jane is her ..... sister.
2. She is ..... than Jane.
3. My brother is not ..... than me.
4. She is ..... to her brother.

**(K)** Fill in the blanks with 'eldest' or 'oldest'.

1. He is the ..... son of Mr Bajaj.
2. The ..... building in the locality was built hundred years ago.
3. My ..... brother is in the army.
4. He is the ..... employee of the organisation.
5. She is the ..... citizen in our residential block.



Far

**Farther, Further** : Both are used to express distance.

**Examples** : (a) Kolkata is **farther/further** from Mumbai than Delhi.

**Further** – also means 'additional'

(b) Without any **further** delay the guide helped us reach our hotel.

**L.** Fill in the blanks with '**farther**' or '**further**'.

1. Without any ..... explanation the committee dismissed him from his duty.
2. I am too tired and cannot walk any .....
3. No ..... orders were sent from the headquarters to the troops.
4. The park is ..... from the school than the stadium.
5. He avoided ..... remarks in order to avoid controversy.

**Nearest, Next** : **Nearest** means the shortest distance away.

**Next** indicates sequence of things coming one after the other.

**Examples** : (a) My house is **next** to the school.

(b) This is the **nearest** hospital from the house.



**M.** Fill in the blanks with '**nearest**' or '**next**'.

1. The ..... market from this place is the local vegetable market.
2. The flower shop is ..... to my house.
3. I go to the ..... fruit market to buy fruits.
4. Jia's house is ..... to the post office.
5. The ..... train will arrive at six in the evening.



## MAKING COMPARISONS

Use of 'As... As'

**A.** The comparison of equality is expressed by 'as ..... as'.

**Example** : Suman and Kanika are **tall**.

Suman is **as tall as** Kanika.

('as ..... as' is usually used in positive sentences)

Notice the change in verb in accordance with the subject — 'are' is changed into 'is'.

**N.** Rewrite the sentences given below using '**as ..... as**'.

1. Tomatoes and onions are costly.
2. Ritu and Rima are short.
3. John and Jay are good in Maths.
4. Tower One and Tower Two are tall.
5. Apples and grapes are sweet.

**B.** (i) Use of '**not as... as**', '**not so... as**', '**than**'

**Example** : Raman is **taller** than Pia.

Pia is **not so tall** as Raman.

Pia is **not as tall** as Raman.

('not so ..... as' is usually used in negative sentences)



Notice that the degree of comparison changes from comparative to positive in negative sentences.

**Example** : from 'taller' to 'tall'

We can also express the same meaning by using **less** or **least**.

**Example :** Pia is **less tall** than Raman.

**Q** Rewrite the sentences using 'not as ..... as' and then 'less'.

- Examples**
- (a) Raman is **taller** than Suresh.
  - (b) Suresh is **not as tall as** Raman.
  - (c) Suresh is **less tall** than Raman.

1. Platinum is costlier than gold.
2. My uncle is taller than my father.
3. The mango is sweeter than the pineapple.
4. Iron is more useful than copper.
5. Silk is softer than cotton.



#### Use of 'Least'

(ii) Comparison is also expressed with the word 'least' in the 'superlative degree'.

**Examples :** That was the **easiest** exam I have ever written.

That was the **least difficult** exam I have ever written.

Note that the word **easiest** is replaced by **least difficult**.

**P** Rewrite the sentences using 'least' without changing the meaning.

1. Wolfram is one of the rarest minerals.  
Wolfram is one of the least common of all minerals.
2. To me the Indian gooseberry is the sourest of all fruits.
3. This is the most useless of all my suitcases.
4. He occupied the most comfortable position to watch the match.



### CHANGING THE DEGREES OF COMPARISON

It is possible to change the degrees of comparison of an adjective in a sentence without changing its meaning.

#### SUPERLATIVE TO COMPARATIVE

- Examples :**
- (a) Lead is the **heaviest** of all metals. (superlative)  
Lead is **heavier** than all other metals. (comparative)
  - (b) Riverdale is the **best** school in our city. (superlative)  
Riverdale is **better** than any other school in our city. (comparative)

**Q** Change the following from superlative to comparative degree without changing the meaning.

1. Mukesh Ambani is the richest businessman in India.
2. He is the tallest of all the students in his class.
3. Asia is the largest continent in the world.
4. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
5. Dr Jain is the most experienced of all the doctors in the hospital.



### COMPARATIVE TO POSITIVE

**Example :** Lead is **heavier** than any other metal.  
Other metals are **not as heavy as** lead.  
OR No other metal is **as heavy as** lead.

**(R.)** Change the following from *comparative to positive* without changing the meaning. (Use 'not as ..... as' or 'as ..... as')

1. Shakespeare is greater than any other English playwright.
2. Jay is better than Fiza in English.
3. The pen is mightier than the sword.
4. Gold is more expensive than any other metal.

### COMPARATIVE TO SUPERLATIVE

**Examples :** (a) Mumbai is **bigger than any other** city in India.

Mumbai is the **biggest** city in India.

(b) Jaya is more **intelligent than any other** girl in the class.

Jaya is the **most intelligent** girl in the class.

**(S.)** Rewrite the following sentences using the *superlative degree of comparison*.

1. Bhumi is more hardworking than any other student in class.
2. Joy is stronger than any other boy in his locality.
3. She is more intelligent than any other girl in school.
4. Michael Jackson was more popular than any other singer in the world.
5. Sachin is a better batsman than any of his team members.



### VALUE CORNER

When we compare two things and one is directly related to the other, we use 'the ... the,' e.g.,

The harder you work, the better you will do.  
(a) Circle the comparative words in the above example.

(b) Do you agree with the above sentence. Does hard work really pay? Explain with another example.