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The Comparative and the Superlative

Comparative a d j e c t i v e :

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (*larger, smaller, faster, higher*). They are used in sentences where two nouns are compared, in this pattern:

Noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + *than* + noun (object).

The second item of comparison can be omitted if it is clear from the context (final example below).

Examples

- My house is **larger** than hers.
- This box is **smaller** than the one I lost.

Superlative adjectives

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (*the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest*). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects.

Noun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + noun (object).

The group that is being compared with can be omitted if it is clear from the context (final example below).

Examples

- My house is the **largest** one in our neighborhood.
- This is the **smallest** box I've ever seen.

Forming regular comparatives and superlatives

Forming comparatives and superlatives is easy. The form depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective.

One syllable adjectives

Add *-er* for the comparative and *-est* for the superlative. If the adjective has a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

Adjective Comparative Superlative

tall	taller	tallest
fat	fatter	fattest
big	bigger	biggest
sad	sadder	saddest

Two syllables

Adjectives with two syllables can form the comparative either by adding *-er* or by preceding the adjective with *more*. These adjectives form the superlative either by adding *-est* or by preceding the adjective with *most*. In many cases, both forms are used, although one usage will be more common than the other. If you are not sure whether a two-syllable adjective can take a comparative or superlative ending, play it safe and use *more* and *most* instead. For adjectives ending in *y*, change the *y* to an *i* before adding the ending.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
simple	simpler	simplest
busy	busier	busiest
tilted	more tilted	most tilted
tangled	more tangled	most tangled

Three or more syllables

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting *more* in front of the adjective, and the superlative by putting *most* in front.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
important	more important	most important
expensive	more expensive	most expensive

Irregular comparatives and superlatives

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	further / farther	furthest / farthest

Examples

- Today is the **worst** day I've had in a long time.
- Your painting is **better** than mine.

Activity one: Fill in the gaps with the comparative or the superlative form of the adjectives given.

1. This armchair is than the old one. (comfortable)
2. Trains are than aeroplanes. (slow)
3. I bought the souvenir I could afford. (expensive)
4. In this classroom there are girls than boys. (many)
5. Ann is the child in the family. (young)
6. That TV set is the of all. (cheap)
7. You are here than there. (safe)
8. Fifi is than Kate. (pretty)
9. This is the film I have ever seen. (exciting)
10. Tim is than Peter. (talented)

Answers :

1. This armchair is **more comfortable** than the old one.
2. Trains are **slower** than aeroplanes.
3. I bought the **most expensive** souvenir I could afford.
4. In this classroom there are **more** girls than boys.
5. Ann is the **youngest** child in the family.
6. That TV set is the **cheapest** of all.
7. You are **safer** here than there.
8. Fifi is **prettier** than Kate.
9. This is the **most exciting** film I have ever seen.
10. Tim is more **talented** than Peter.

Types of Sentences

Simple sentence:

Simple sentence contains an independent clause

- It contains a subject and a verb

For example:

- She brushes her teeth in the morning.
- The baby laughed.

Compound sentence:

Compound sentence contains two independent clauses, and they are linked by coordinating conjunctions.

- Coordinating conjunctions can include: for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so.

For example:

- She brushes her teeth in the morning, so her teeth are nice and clean.
- She brushes her teeth in the morning, her teeth are nice and clean.

Independent clause

Independent clause

- The baby laughed at the cartoon, and he played with his toys.

Complex sentence:

Complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more subordinate clause.

- Subordinate clauses are linked by either a subordinating conjunctions (although, after, because, since, when....etc) or relative pronouns (who, which, that,etc)

For example:

- She brushes her teeth in the morning after waking up.

independent clause

dependant clause

Compound – complex sentence:

Compound-complex sentences contain two or more independent clauses, and one or more dependant clause that is linked with a coordinating conjunction.

For example:

- I woke up in the morning and I brushed my teeth even though everyone else was sleeping.

independent clause

independent clause

dependant clause

The Definite and Indefinite Articles

How to Use Articles

A - AN - THE



A

- "A" is used in front of singular countable nouns (a person, animal or thing) which are not specific.
- We don't use a before uncountable or plural nouns.
- If a noun starts with a consonant sound (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, etc.), "a" comes before the noun.



E.g. a dog, a chicken, a boy, a teacher, a girl, a lesson, a website, etc.

An

- "AN" is used in front of singular countable nouns which are not specific.
- We don't use a before uncountable or plural nouns.
- If the noun starts with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u), "an" comes before the noun.

E.g. an umbrella, an owl, an image, an hour, an enemy, an author, etc.

The

- We use 'THE' in front of all nouns (It does not matter whether the nouns are singular, plural countable or uncountable) to describe someone or something specific or unique.

E.g. the Moon, the world, the Sun, the atmosphere, the rain, the South, the West, the North, etc.



Activity one: Put the correct definite or indefinite article: "the" , "a" , "an".

1. I boughtpair of shoes.
2. I saw movie last night.
3. They are staying at hotel.
4. Look atwoman over there! She is a famous actress.
5. That is girl I told you about.
6.night is quiet. Let's take a walk!
7.price of gas keeps rising.
8. I readamazing story yesterday.
9. Love is such beautiful thing.
10. I live inapartment apartment is new.
11. I would like piece of cake.
12. I was inJapanese restaurantrestaurant served good food.
13. Sara can playguitar.

Answers:

1. I bought a ✓ pair of shoes.
2. I saw a ✓ movie last night.
3. They are staying at a ✓ hotel.
4. Look at the ✓ woman over there! She is a famous actress.
5. That is the ✓ girl I told you about.
6. The ✓ night is quiet. Let's take a walk!
7. The ✓ price of gas keeps rising.
8. I read an ✓ amazing story yesterday.
9. Love is such a ✓ beautiful thing.
10. I live in an ✓ apartment. The ✓ apartment is new.
11. I would like a ✓ piece of cake.
12. I was in a ✓ Japanese restaurant. The ✓ restaurant served good food.
13. Sara can play the ✓ guitar.

Syllables

What is a syllable?

Is a unit of sound in language that joins vowels with consonants to create meaning, or to form words.

Dividing words into syllables :(general form of the word).

Before dividing words into syllables we should learn some rules as follows:

Rules	Examples
1_one syllable word is not divided.	drug_ one syllable word.
2_A word had a prefix we divide the word into prefix and root .	Mis use_ mis/use Two syllable word (prefix+root)
3_A word has a suffix we divide the word into root and suffix.	Harmful harm/ful. Two syllable (root +suffix).
4_when two consonants or more come between two vowel, it is divided between two consonants.	doctor_doc/tor. (Vccv)_(vc/cv).
5_words end in le preceded by a consonant we divide them before that consonant.	people_ peo/ple. (consonantle).
6- words ends in ckle we divide the words between ckandle	tackle_tack/le.

Dividing words into syllables : internal form of words .

Rules	Examples
1_v/cv one consonant between two vowels, the first vowel is short.	clever_clev/er vcv _ vc / v
2_v/cv one consonant between two vowels, the first vowel is long .	music_mu/sic. Vcv _ v / cv
3_v/v two vowels together in a word, sounded separately .	Diet_di/et(two syllable word). Two vowels sounded separately). But: blood_blood(one syllable word) two vowels sounded similarly .
4_v/ a vowel sounded alone, it forms a syllable	event_ e/ vent

Activity: Transform the following sentences into the passive voice:

1. My brother has written that poem.
2. He is going to build a house next week.
3. Chef Jones has been preparing the restaurant's fantastic dinners for two years before.
4. The sales man was helping the costumer when the thief came into the store.
5. The wind is rippling the water.
6. The child will open the parcel.
7. The cow is eating the clover.
8. The dealer ordered the wine.
9. The police man gave you a medal.
10. The guide will show you the museum.

Answers

1. That poem has been written by my brother.
2. A house is going to be build by him next week.
3. The restaurant's fantastic dinners had been being prepared by chef Jones for two years before.
4. The customer was being helped by the salesman when the thief came into the store.
5. The water is beingripping by the wind.
6. The parcel will be opened by the child.
7. The clover is being eaten by the cow.
8. The wine was ordered by the dealer.
9. A medal was given to you by the policeman.
10. The museum will be shown to you by the guide.

Final S Pronunciation Rules

Rule # 1 : If the final sound of the word is voiceless, the final -s is pronounced as /s/.

Examples:

- cat/cats
- duck/ducks
- walk/walks
- jump/jumps
- stump/stumps
- coat/coats
- disk/disks
- ship/ships
- laugh/laughs
- create/creates

Practice Sentences:

1. The **cats** run as the dog **walks** by.
2. She **creates** beautiful paintings of **ships**.
3. He **ducks** under the limbs and **jumps** over the **stumps**.
4. Which of my **coats** did I leave my computer **disks** in?
5. The little boy **laughs** as he feeds the **ducks**.

Rule #2: If the final sound in the word is voiced, the final -s is pronounced as /z/.

Examples:

- run/runs
- grab/grabs
- afford/affords
- bag/bags
- rule/rules
- come/comes
- plan/plans
- brother/brothers
- glove/gloves
- shoe/shoes

Practice Sentences:

1. He **runs** and **grabs** the ball from his opponent.
2. I don't understand how he **affords** **bags** of new **clothes** every month.
3. The **rules** state that everyone **comes** to the **meetings**.
4. She **plans** to play a trick on her **brothers**.
5. Wear your **gloves** and **shoes** out in the snow.

Rule #3: If the final sound in the word is s, ch, sh, or j, the final s is pronounced as /iz/.

Examples:

- watch/watches
- bus/buses
- wish/wishes
- badge/badges
- switch/switches
- bless/blesses
- dish/dishes
- trudge/trudges
- catch/catches
- wash/washes

Practice Sentences:

1. The homeless man sits in the bus station and **watches** the **buses** go by.
2. The soldier **wishes** he had earned more **badges** during the war.
3. The mother **blesses** her children when she **catches** them being kind.
4. The teenager **trudges** into the kitchen and **washes** the dishes.