

Adjectives (positive, comparative, superlative, and demonstrative)

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives answer one of the following questions:
Which one? What kind? How many? How much?

Here are some examples of adjectives.

- Ex. The **BROWN** dog barked up the tree.
- Ex. Rock climbing is **MORE DANGEROUS** than swimming.
- Ex. Toni is the **SMARTEST** child in our class.

Practice

In order to help the student understand how to use adjectives, use the following exercise. Have the student list three adjectives describing each of the nouns listed below. Then have the student choose one adjective per noun and use them in a sentence.

- Ex. cat -> furry, soft, friendly, **lazy**, brown -> My **lazy cat** sleeps all day.

1. tree
2. pizza
3. friend
4. dog
5. plate

In order to help the student understand how to use adjectives, use the following exercise. Help the student choose a busy and interesting picture from a magazine. Then set a timer for five minutes and have the student make a list of as many adjectives as possible that describe things in the picture. When the timer rings, have the student write five sentences about the picture without using any of the adjectives listed. Last, have the student rewrite the five sentences, including appropriate adjectives. Ask the student to tell you which sentences they find more interesting and why?

Adjectives

Adjectives modify nouns or pronouns by answering questions such as how many, what kind, or which one. In the sentence "We have lived in five states," the word "five" describes the word "states." Five is the adjective describing states, the noun.

Adjectives can be used to compare people or things. There are three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative.

A positive adjective describes one noun. Examples: strong, careful, happy, generous

A comparative adjective compares two nouns. Examples: stronger, more careful, happier, more generous

A superlative adjective compare more than two nouns. Examples: strongest, most careful, happiest, most generous.

Most one syllable adjectives form their comparative and superlative degrees by adding "er" and "est" to the end of the word.

Some two-syllable adjectives form their comparative and superlative degrees by adding "er" and "est," while others use "more" and "most."

Adjectives of more than two syllables form their comparative and superlative degrees by using "more" and "most" or "less" and "least."

It is important for students to use adjectives in their positive and comparative forms.

Using a newspaper or magazine article of interest to the student, ask the student to circle the nouns in the sentence and then underline the adjectives that modify (describe) them.

To review and reinforce adjectives used to compare, have students set up a chart of comparative adjectives. For example:

positive: dirty

comparative: dirtier

superlative: dirtiest

Now have the students use these adjectives in sentences of their own.

Adjectives: Comparative

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives answer one of the following questions: Which one? What kind? How many? How much?

A comparative adjective is used when comparing two things.

Here are some examples of comparative adjectives.

- Ex. John is FUNNIER than Jenn.
- Ex. I like cake BETTER than ice cream.
- Ex. My dog Daisy is MORE INTELLIGENT than my dog Rex.
- Ex. John's answer is *more correct* than Jenn's.
- Ex. Cake has a *more enjoyable* taste than ice cream does.
- Ex. My dog Daisy is *more intelligent* than my dog Rex.

Practice

In order to help the student understand comparative adjectives, use the following exercise. Have the student complete each of the following lists with a comparative adjective.

- Ex. big, bigger, biggest

1. small, _____ , smallest
2. expensive, _____ , most expensive
3. funny, _____ , funniest
4. difficult, _____ , most difficult
5. bad, _____ , worst

In order to help the student understand how to use comparative adjectives, use the following exercise. Have the students complete each of the following sentences with the comparative form of the given adjective.

- Ex. In science class, I seem to be (confused) more confused than my classmates.

1. My brother is (careful) _____ than my sister.
2. Art is a (interesting) _____ subject than music.
3. Rabbits are (intelligent) _____ than cats.
4. Jenn is a (talented) _____ soccer player than her brother.
5. My grandma's apple pie is (delicious) _____ than my mother's.

Adjectives: Superlative

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives answer one of the following questions: Which one? What kind? How many? How much?

A superlative adjective is used to compare more than two things.

Superlative adverbs may be compared by using **-est** endings. However, the majority of descriptive adverbs are compared using the **-ly** ending and the word **most**.

Here are some examples of superlative adjectives.

- Ex. John is the *funniest* kid in our class.
- Ex. Cake is the *best* dessert.
- Ex. Daisy is the *most intelligent* dog in the world.

Here are some helpful hints for the student to use when writing with superlative adjectives.

1. The superlative degree compares three or more things.
2. Add the *-est* ending to most adjectives that are one or two syllables long.
For example: *biggest, strongest, fastest, roughest*
3. If the one- or two-syllable adjective ends in *y*, drop the *y* and add *-ier* and *-iest*.
For example: *happiest, silliest, funniest*
4. Use *most* and *least* in front of most adjectives with two or more syllables.
For example: *most advanced, most capable*
5. Add *-r* and *-st* to short adjectives that end in *e*.
For example: *littlest, ablest, subtlest*

There are also some irregular forms of superlative adjectives, including: *most, least, best, and worst*.

Practice

In order to help the student understand how to use superlative adjectives, use the following exercise. Have the student draw three stick figures. One should be tall, look unhappy, and have curly hair. The second should be medium height, look happy, and have straight hair. The third should be short, look slightly happy, and have wavy hair. The student can add other features (like large ears, big muscles, small nose) as long as no two figures are the same. Give the drawings funny names: Moo, Squeaker, or Ozzie, for example. Then ask the student to use superlative adjectives in five sentences that describe the pictures.

- Ex. Moo has the *largest* ears.
- Ex. Squeaker looks the *most unhappy*.
- Ex. Ozzie is the *tallest*.

Adjectives: Demonstrative

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Demonstrative adjectives are used to point to or identify a noun. They are used to answer the question "Which one(s)?"

There are four demonstrative adjectives: *this, that, these, those*.

- Ex. *That* musical could have been great, but *those* actors were awful.
- Ex. I want *this* piece of chicken.
- Ex. Are *these* keys yours?

Practice

In order to help the student understand how to use demonstrative adjectives, try the following exercise. Have the student read each of the following sentences and choose the correct demonstrative adjective.

It may be helpful for the student to remember that the demonstrative adjectives *this* and *that* are singular, while *these* and *those* are plural. The student may use the word following the blank as a clue that points to the correct demonstrative adjective.

- Ex. I picked up (this/these) trash on my way home.

In the example above, the student can see that the word "trash" is singular. Therefore, the demonstrative adjective will be singular. "This" is clearly the correct answer.

1. _____ flowers need to be watered, or they are going to die. (These/This)
2. I think _____ notebook is mine, but I'm not sure. (that/these)
3. Are _____ notes yours? (this/those)
4. _____ party is the best I've ever thrown. (This/These)
5. I wish I hadn't spent so much money on _____ car. (these/that)