

# Adjectives

**Adjectives** qualify (give us more information about) nouns or pronouns.

**Example:** The **first** day of the week was the **longest** day for me.

The adjectives *first* and *longest* describe the noun *day*.

We can describe the noun *day* by using many different adjectives, for example, *windy*, *sunny*, *dull*, *exciting* or *busy*.

There are different types of adjectives.

- **Descriptive adjectives** describe a noun or a pronoun. For example: a *humid* day, a *large* animal or an *angry* person.
- **Numerical adjectives** tell us the *number* or *order* of the noun. For example: *first* place, *two* shoes.
- **Demonstrative adjectives** point out singular or plural people or things. For example: *this* house, *that* child, *these* shoes, *those* flowers.

**Note:** We also use adjectives to explain where someone or something comes from, for example, *South African* citizen or *Sesotho* play.

1. From the words below, find two examples of each of the different types of adjective and write them next to the headings. The first one has been done for you.

green (car)    third (person)    this (dress)    one (apple)  
Chinese (people)    tall (girl)    those (houses)    American (lady)

- a) Adjectives that show origin: Chinese/American
  - b) Descriptive adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Numerical adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Demonstrative adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
2. Underline the descriptive adjectives in the following advertisement. Circle the numerical adjectives and draw brackets around the demonstrative adjectives.

Make sure you are the first person to enter this exciting competition. Three lucky winners can each win these prizes: a hamper of food, clothing and two tickets to a music concert.

## Comparative and superlative adjectives

We use **comparative** and **superlative adjectives** to compare people or things.

The **comparative degree** compares two people or things.

The **superlative degree** compares more than two people or things.

**Example:** a **tall** person, a **taller** person, and the **tallest** person

Most comparative adjectives and superlative adjectives are formed from base adjectives.

**Comparative adjectives:** We add *-er* or *-r* to the base adjective if it ends in *-e*. If the adjective ends in *-y* we drop the *-y* and add *-ier*.

**Examples:** large – larger, happy – happier, stony – stonier

**Superlative adjectives:** We add *-est* or *-st* to the base adjective if it ends in *-e*. If the base adjective ends in *-y*, we drop the *-y* and add *-iest*.

**Examples:** large, larger, largest; happy, happier, happiest; stony, stonier, stoniest

There are exceptions to the rules:

- Some base adjectives change completely in the comparative and superlative.

**Examples:** good, better, best; bad, worse, worst; little, less, least

- If the base adjective has three or more syllables we use *more* and *most*.

**Example:** beau/ti/ful, more beautiful (comparative), most beautiful (superlative)

1. Complete the table below with the correct adjectives. The first one has been done for you.

Base adjective	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
a) far	further	the furthest
b) young		
c) colourful		
d) bad		
e) happy		



**Hint**

Remember to add *the* for superlative adjectives.

2. Rewrite the adjectives in the paragraph so that they are correct.

Babalwa, Cindy and I picked flowers for our prize giving ceremony. My flowers were pretty, Cindy's flowers were (pretty) (a) \_\_\_\_\_ but Babalwa's flowers were the (pretty) (b) \_\_\_\_\_. We arranged the flowers in three vases. Cindy's vase was large, my vase was (large) (c) \_\_\_\_\_ and Babalwa had the (large) (d) \_\_\_\_\_ vase. Our friends said that my arrangement was beautiful, Babalwa's arrangement was (beautiful) (e) \_\_\_\_\_ and Cindy's arrangement was (beautiful) (f) \_\_\_\_\_. The head teacher said we did a great job.