COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

Examples.

- Leke has a big rabbit.
- Okechukwu's cat is bigger than Leke's rabbit.
- Shehu's dog is the biggest.

Considering the above examples, you would see the possibility for you to compare the various qualities being described by adjectives in relation to their degree. In order to do this, you have to change the forms of the adjectives. The three forms in which adjectives appear are known as degrees of comparison.

Examples.

Positive	**Comparative**	**Superlative**
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Small	Smaller	Smallest

The positive degree is the smallest form of the adjective.

Examples.

- This house is big.
- This car is small.

You use the comparative degree when you are comparing two things.

Examples.

- This house is bigger than yours.
- This car is smaller than mine.

In order to form the comparative, you add 'er' to the adjective or 'r' to those adjectives which end in 'e'. When you are comparing more than two things, you use the superlative degree by adding 'est' to the adjective and only 'st' to adjectives which end in 'e'.

Examples.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Careful	More careful	Most careful
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful

Irregular Adjectives

Some adjectives do not form their comparative and superlative degree by adding more/er and most/est. Instead, these adjectives form their comparative and superlative degrees in other ways.

Examples.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Little	Less	Least

Gradable and Non-gradable Adjectives

Many of the adjectives you now know are those that name varying degrees of quality. In addition to having comparative and superlative forms, these adjectives can be modified by adverbs that increase or lessn the quality they name. Below are the varying levels of the adjective, big:

Big, bigger, fairly bigger, quite bigger, very big, really big, biggest.

Adjectives that can be modified by adverbs are known as gradable adjectives.

However, there are some adjectives that name absolute or extreme qualities. Such adjectives do not have comparative forms and cannot be expressed in degrees. Examples are perfect, real, right, terrible, fatal, superior, ghastly, unique, utter, inferior, fake, and genuine.