

Predicate Adjectives

A **predicate adjective** is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes the subject of the sentence.

Example:

Rin Tin Tin was famous in Hollywood, too.



Write **predicate adjective** or **predicate nominative** (see p. 28) to identify the underlined word or words in each sentence.

- The pit crew felt hot and grimy.

- Perhaps their driver's car was a lemon.

- Those odd puffs from the engine were certainly smoke.

- Now the outcome of the race seemed uncertain.

- Of course, the crew's driver was a professional.

- However, he appeared worried about the race, too.

- Those noises from the engine were ominous.

- If he lost the race, the driver would be angry.

- In the last four races, his old rival had been the winner.

- He felt frustrated by his recent failures.

- The shadow clock may have been the earliest device for keeping time.

- In its simplest form, this instrument was a stick in the ground.

- The sundial was another ancient instrument for measuring time.

- Water clocks were also common in ancient Greece.

- In an hourglass, the flow of sand was the measure of time.

- Devices for keeping time gradually became more complex.

- In the fourteenth century, the first mechanical clocks probably seemed magical.

- These clocks were heavy and awkward.

- Early mechanical clocks had only one hand, and many were inaccurate.



Comparisons with Adjectives

The **positive form** of an adjective is used when no comparison is being made.

Examples:

old wonderful imaginative

How *old* the Inca empire seems to us today!

The **comparative form** of an adjective is used to compare two items. Form the comparative of most one-syllable adjectives by adding *er*. For most adjectives with two or more syllables, add the word *more* before the adjective.

Examples:

older more wonderful more imaginative

The Aztec empire is *older* than the Inca empire.

The **superlative form** of an adjective is used to compare three or more items. Form the superlative of most one-syllable adjectives by adding *est*. For most adjectives with two or more syllables, add the word *most* before the adjective.

Examples:

oldest most wonderful most imaginative

The Mayan empire is the *oldest* one in the Americas.



Underline the comparing adjective in each sentence. Then write *comparative* or *superlative* to identify its degree of comparison.

1. The giant sequoia is the tallest tree on the earth. _____
2. A giant sequoia may be taller than a skyscraper. _____
3. These magnificent trees are among the oldest living things on the earth. _____
4. The General Grant sequoia is one of the most important tourist attractions in Yosemite National Park. _____
5. Many tourists consider a grove of giant sequoias the most impressive sight in the state.

6. Cones from the redwood sequoia are larger than those from the giant sequoia. _____



Rewrite each sentence, using the correct form of the adjective.

7. Logging is the most large industry in Oregon.

8. The loggers' organization is more powerfuller than many other groups.

9. We are learning to be more carefuller of our forests than we once were.

10. Unfortunately, the world's forests are more small than they were even a few decades ago.



Comparisons with Adjectives, page 2



Underline each positive form of an adjective once. Underline each comparative form twice and each superlative form three times. Do not underline articles or demonstrative adjectives.

1. California, which stretches for hundreds of miles down the Pacific coast, is more populous than any other state in the nation.
2. Some people say that San Francisco is the most beautiful city in America.
3. One of the most picturesque neighborhoods in this hilly city by the bay is Chinatown.
4. The best time to visit San Francisco is in early autumn, when the chilly fog does not blanket the city.
5. Los Angeles is probably the most important city in America for entertainment.
6. Who hasn't heard of fabulous Hollywood?
7. According to many professionals, the University of California at Los Angeles offers the most useful training for filmmakers.
8. Between California's two great cities lie miles of spectacular coastline.
9. Most parks in California are more crowded on holidays than on weekends.
10. Some neighborhoods of San Diego have a Mexican flavor; the Mexican border is very close to the city.



Write the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.

11. Yosemite is not the _____ national park, but it is one of the most spectacular.
(old)
12. It is _____ than I ever imagined.
(beautiful)
13. Yosemite Falls is the _____ series of waterfalls in North America.
(high)
14. The conservationist John Muir had _____ influence than anyone else in persuading Congress to declare Yosemite a national park.
(much)
15. During summer, Yosemite is one of America's _____ national park.
(busy)



Irregular Comparisons with Adjectives

Some adjectives have special forms for comparing.

Examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
much	more	most
little	less	least



Write each sentence, using the correct form of comparison.

1. Reading ingredient labels is the _____ way to evaluate prepared foods.
(more best, best)
2. Some labels may boast foods with _____ sodium.
(less, fewer)
3. Other labels advertise foods with _____ calories.
(less, fewer)
4. Many nutritionists say that sugar is the _____ additive.
(most worst, worst)
5. For many consumers, no-salt foods have the _____ appeal.
(most least, least)
6. Usually, foods with _____ salt are _____ for you.
(fewer, less) (more better, better)



Write *positive*, *comparative*, or *superlative* to identify the underlined adjective in each sentence.

7. Many people think that the best foods are homemade. _____
8. They think that the fewer unnatural ingredients we add to our food, the healthier we will be.

9. Some think that perfect foods come directly from the earth to the table. _____
10. Other people think that the less work a meal involves, the better it tastes. _____
11. Almost everyone agrees that fresh water tastes good. _____
12. Drinking cool water directly from a spring is a unique experience. _____
13. A drink of water will almost always make you feel better. _____
14. Painting the faces was the worst part of the job. _____
15. I used more paint than my partner did. _____



Irregular Comparisons with Adjectives, page 2



Write the form of the adjective in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

- We were all competing to see who could create the (good) poster about an ancient civilization. _____
- The Great Wall of China wasn't a (bad) idea at all! _____
- This poster is definitely (good) than last year's winner. _____
- Ms. Martin is feeling (good) than she did yesterday, rather than (bad), so she'll judge the posters this afternoon. _____
- This contest has been (much) fun than anything else I've done this month. _____
- In fact, it may be the (good) activity of the year. _____
- The (good) thing to do on a trip is to travel light. _____
- Less baggage is (good) than (much) baggage. _____
- Of these two brochures, this one is (bad). _____
- There are (much) pictures than words. _____
- I was sick on the first day, but now I feel (good). _____
- The cruise with the (little) cost of all is to Aruba. _____



Write a review of a local restaurant, evaluating its food, service, and atmosphere. Use comparative forms of adjectives such as *good, bad, and little.*

Other Parts of Speech as Adjectives

A pronoun, noun, or verb can also function as an adjective.

Examples:

These are very ripe bananas. (pronoun)

These bananas are too ripe. (adjective)

The *stone* looks impressive. (noun)

The *stone* house looks impressive. (adjective)

The water is *running* down the street. (verb)

The *running* water pooled in the street. (adjective)



Write *adjective, pronoun, noun, or verb* to identify the underlined word in each sentence.

1. It was difficult to tell which radio was playing. _____
2. "Which is on now?" the customer asked a sales clerk. _____
3. Music from TVs and stereos was blaring through the store. _____
4. The blaring music bothered some of the customers. _____
5. The sales clerk led the customer to a listening room. _____
6. Other customers were listening in another tiny room. _____
7. "All of these buttons confuse me," complained the customer. _____
8. "Not all radios have so many buttons," explained the clerk. _____
9. Several portable radios were on display. _____
10. The clerk brought several to the customer. _____
11. "This is too heavy," remarked the customer. _____
12. "This radio is smaller," said the clerk. _____
13. The customer's attitude exasperated the clerk. _____
14. The exasperated clerk glared at the customer. _____
15. "May I return this radio to the store next week?" asked the customer. _____
16. "I'm sorry," replied the clerk, "but the store policy does not permit returns." _____
17. "That policy is ridiculous!" exclaimed the customer. _____
18. "Well, I can't do anything about that," sighed the clerk. _____
19. "May I make a complaint about the policy?" asked the customer. _____
20. "Yes, please write it on that form and put it in the complaint box," said the clerk. _____

