

*An adjective in the **positive** degree simply expresses a quality, as, A fine day.*

*An adjective in the **comparative** degree indicates that **one of two objects** possesses a quality in a **higher degree**, as, Life is dearer than gold.*

*An adjective in the **superlative** degree indicates that **one of three or more** objects possesses a quality in the **highest degree**, as, The English navy is the **strongest** in the world.*

Adjectives are compared in two ways :—

1. By adding the endings **-er** and **-est** to the positive, as, *fair, fairer, fairest.*

2. By prefixing the adverbs **more** and **most** to the positive, as, difficult ; **more** difficult ; **most** difficult.

Adjectives of one syllable and a few of two syllables (like *pretty, polite, able, narrow*) that can be easily pronounced, when the endings are suffixed, are compared by endings. Others are compared by prefixing the adverbs *more* and *most*.

EXERCISE 50.

Compare the adjectives :—

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Large. | 6. Apt. | 11. Aged. | 16. Little. |
| 2. Ugly. | 7. Idle. | 12. Honest. | 17. Generous. |
| 3. Tired. | 8. Gay. | 13. Big. | 18. Bad. |
| 4. Tender. | 9. Open. | 14. Clever. | 19. Feeble. |
| 5. Lofty. | 10. Severe. | 15. Good. | 20. Hearty. |