

OF THE POSITIVE, COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE DEGREES IN ADJECTIVES.

78. The *positive* is the adjective itself : Un enfant épouvantable à voir :

79. Tho adjective is in the *comparative* degree when the quality bears an idea of comparison either of *superiority*, *inferiority* or *equality* :

Laura est *plus grande* que vous = superiority.
 Laura est *moins grande* que moi = inferiority.
 Laura n'est pas si grande que moi = "
 Laura est *aussi grande* que sa sœur = equality.

80. The *superlative* expresses the quality in the highest degree. It may be relative or absolute. It is always preceded by *le, la, les* inflected, or by *mon, ma, mes*.

Le pays *le plus* beau or *Le plus* beau pays du monde est notre patrie = relative.

Mon plus jeune ami est ici = relative.

La Normandie est très riche = absolute.

Ce pain est *fort* bon et *extrêmement* bon marché
 == This bread is very good and extremely cheap) = absolute.

81. The only irregular adjectives in French are the following :

<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Comparative.</i>	<i>Superlative.</i>
Bon	Meilleur	Le meilleur
Mauvais	Pire or plus mauvais	Le pire or le plus mauvais.
Petit	Moindre or plus petit	Le moindre " " petit.

82. When a numeral comes after the comparative, *que* is replaced by *de*. Avez vous plus *de* vingt ans? (= Are you more than twenty years old?)

83. When the comparative is repeated omit the article :
Plus on écoute cette chanson, *plus* on l'aime (= The more one listens to that song, the more one likes it.)

84. The verb following a superlative is generally in the subjunctive mood : Ces couteaux sont *les meilleurs* et *les plus solides* que je *connaisse*. (= These knives are the best and most solid I know.)