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Degree of Comparison

To describe, quantify, modify or identify nouns/pronouns, adjectives are used. Adjectives have their own degrees called degrees of adjectives or degrees of comparison that compare one thing/person to another.

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison –

- Positive degree of adjectives,
- Comparative degree of adjectives
- Superlative degree of adjectives

Degrees of Comparison examples:

- Positive degree - The cat runs fast.
- Comparative degree - The cat runs faster than dogs
- Superlative degree - The cat runs fastest of all animals.

Degree of Comparison Rules

- **Rule 1.** When two items/person are compared, a comparative degree is used by putting 'er' to the adjective word in association with word 'than' or in some cases 'more' is used.

Comparative degree example:

- She is smarter than her sister.
- She is more smart than her sister

Similarly, when more than two things/persons are compared, superlative degree is used by putting 'est' to the adjective word or in some cases 'most' is used.



Superlative degree example:

- He is the strongest wrestler.
 - He is the most handsome actor
-
- **Rule 2.** 'More' is used when you qualities of a single thing/person are compared. Even if the first adjective is a single syllable word.
 - Incorrect - She is smarter than clever
 - Correct - She is more smart than clever
 - **Rule 3.** Do not use double comparative adjectives or superlative adjectives.
Incorrect - Your voice is more louder than that of me
Correct - Your voice is louder than that of me
 - **Rule 4.** Never use 'more or most' with adjectives like perfect, parallel, unique etc.
Incorrect - This track is more parallel to that one
Correct - This track is parallel and the other is not.
 - **Rule 5.** There are a few adjectives that are accompanied by 'to', like, senior, Junior, superior, inferior, preferable, prefer, elder. Do not use 'than' with these adjectives.
 - Incorrect: I am elder than her
 - Correct : I am elder to her
 - Incorrect - This car brand is superior than that.
 - Correct - This card brand is superior to that.



- **Rule 6.** When comparing two things, similarity should be there i.e. similar things should be compared.

Incorrect - This wall color is more beautiful than the old one. (wall color is compared with the wall)

Correct - This wall color is more beautiful than that of the old one. (compare wall color with wall color)

- **Rule 7.** When comparative degree is used in the superlative degree sense,

1. Use 'any other' when thing/person of the same group is compared.

- Incorrect: Reena is **smarter than any student** of her class.
- Correct: Reena is **smarter than any other student** of her class.

2. Use 'any' if comparison of things/person is outside the group.

- Incorrect: Delhi is cleaner than any other city in Bangladesh.
- Correct: Delhi is cleaner than any city in Bangladesh.
- **Rule 8.** When in the same sentence two adjectives in different degrees of comparison are used, both should be complete in itself.

Incorrect- She is as good if not worse than her sister

Correct - She is as good as if not worse than her sister

- **Rule 9.** To show whether the difference between the compared thing/person is small or big, we use quantifiers for comparative degree of adjective such as (A bit, a little, a lot, far, much, a great deal, significantly, etc).

My hostel is **only marginally** bigger than yours

She is **a little** more popular than her sister in their school

Australia is **slightly** smaller than Africa.

- We don't use quantifiers with superlative degrees of adjectives but there are certain phrases commonly used with the superlative degrees of comparison.

In metropolitan cities, metros are by far the cheapest mode of transportation.

Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages in the world.

- **Rule. 10.** While changing the degree of comparison for the irregular adjectives, the word completely changes instead of adding 'er' or 'est'. Examples:

She has little milk in the jar

She has less milk than he has

She has the least amount of milk

Practice-1

Complete the following sentences.

1. No other boy is as as James. (tall / taller / tallest)
2. Milk is than any other food. (nourishing / more nourishing / most nourishing)
3. Radium is one of the metals. (valuable / more valuable / most valuable)
4. Few English poets were as as Wordsworth. (great / greater / greatest)
5. Shimla is than most other hill stations in India. (famous / more famous / most famous)
6. Gold is one of the metals. (precious / more precious / most precious)
7. Solomon was than any other king. (wise / wiser / wisest)



8. Few historians write as as Macaulay. (well / better /best)
9. Very few books are as as David Copperfield. (popular / more popular / most popular)
10. A train is than a car. (fast / faster / fastest)
11. This is a nice cat. It's much-----than my friend's cat.
12. Here is Emily. She's six years old. Her brother is nine, so he is-----
13. .This is a difficult exercise. But the exercise with an asterisk (*) is the ----- exercise on the worksheet.
14. He has an interesting hobby, but my sister has the -----one in the world.
15. In the last holidays I read a good book, but father gave me an even -----one last weekend.
16. School is boring, but homework is -----than school.
17. Skateboarding is a dangerous hobby. Bungee jumping is -----than skateboarding.
18. This magazine is cheap, but that one is-----
19. We live in a small house, but my grandparents' house is even -----than ours.
20. Yesterday John told me a funny joke. This joke was the -----joke I've ever heard.

Hyphenated/Compound Adjective

A compound adjective is a multi-word adjective. Most compound adjectives are two-word adjectives, but they can be longer. Usually, a **hyphen** (or hyphens) is used to link the words together to show that it is one adjective. For example (compound adjectives shaded):

- Please request a **four-foot** table.

("Four-foot" is an adjective describing "table." A hyphen is used to link "four" and "foot" to show they are part of the same adjective.)



- It is a **6-page** document.
- Claire worked as a **part-time** keeper at the safari park.
- That is an **all-too-common** mistake.

(This is an example of a compound adjective with more than two words.)

Here are some common formats for compound adjectives (with examples).

Examples of compound adjectives starting with Numbers

Number + noun

The most common compound adjectives start with numbers and end with nouns. For example:

- **three-hour** wait
 - **ten-minute** journey
 - **five-day** holiday
 - **three-page** document
 - **500-word** story
- **Note:** hyphenated noun is always used in singular form.

Examples of compound adjectives with adjectives

Word + adjective

Compound adjectives often end with adjectives. For example:

- **brand-new** car
- **fat-free** snacks



- ice-cold drinks
- red-hot peppers
- world-famous player

Adverb

An adverb is a word that modifies (describes) a verb (he sings loudly), an adjective (very tall), another adverb (ended too quickly), or even a whole sentence (Fortunately, I had brought an umbrella). Adverbs often end in -ly, but some (such as fast) look exactly the same as their adjective counterparts.

- Tom Longboat did not run **badly**.
- Tom is **very** tall.
- The race finished **too** quickly.
- **Fortunately**, Lucy recorded Tom's win.

It's easy to identify adverbs in these sentences.

Adverbs and verbs

Adverbs often modify verbs. This means that they describe the way an action is happening.

- Phillip sings **loudly** in the shower.
- My cat waits **impatiently** for his food.
- I will **seriously** consider your suggestion.

The adverbs in each of the sentences above answer the question *in what manner?*

- How does Jahid sing? Loudly.
- How does my cat wait? Impatiently.



- How will I consider your suggestion? Seriously.

Adverbs can answer other types of questions about how an action was performed. They can also tell you *when* (We arrived *early*) and *where* (Turn *here*).

However, there is one type of verb that doesn't mix well with adverbs.

Linking verbs:

such as *feel*, *smell*, *sound*, *seem*, and *appear*, typically need adjectives, not adverbs. A very common example of this type of mixup is:

- Incorrect: I feel **badly** about what happened.
- Correct: I feel bad about what happened.

Adverbs and adjectives

Adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs. Often, the purpose of the adverb is to add a degree of intensity to the adjective.

- The woman is **quite** pretty.
- This book is **more** interesting than the last one.
- The weather report is **almost always** right.

The adverb *almost* is modifying the adverb *always*, and they're both modifying *right*.

- "Is my singing **too** loud?" asked Pail.
- My cat is **incredibly** happy to have his dinner.
- We will be **slightly** late to the meeting.
- This bridesmaid dress is a **very** unflattering shade of puce.



Adverbs and other adverbs

You can use an adverb to describe another adverb. In fact, if you wanted to, you could use several.

Pial sings **too loudly**.

Example: very fast, unusually quickly, almost daily

The problem is that it often produces weak and clunky sentences like the one above, so be careful not to overdo it.

Adverbs and sentences

Some adverbs can modify entire sentences—unsurprisingly, these are called **sentence adverbs**. Common ones include *generally*, *fortunately*, *interestingly*, and *accordingly*.

Sentence adverbs don't describe one particular thing in the sentence—instead, they describe a general feeling about all of the information in the sentence.

- Fortunately, we got there in time.
- Interestingly, no one at the auction seemed interested in bidding on the antique spoon collection.

Negative adverb:

Negative adverbs and negative adverbials (groups of words that function as adverbs) are used to modify the meaning of a verb, adjective, other adverb, or entire clause in a negative way. Like all adverbs, they usually answer questions about manner, place, time, or degree.

- **No and Not**

There is debate whether *no* and *not* should be classed as adverbs, but they are by far the most commonly used words for creating negative statements, so we'll briefly look at how they work.



Using no:

We use *no* as a negative answer to questions or an expression of disagreement. It's often classed as a determiner or an exclamation, but other grammarians argue that it's an adverb, especially when it is used to negate **comparative adjectives** or **comparative adverbs**. For example:

- “He is **no** *better* than his rival.”
- “She runs **no** *more quickly* than her sister.”

- Using **not** with auxiliary and modal verbs

To negate a verb phrase, we insert *not* after the first auxiliary or modal verb. For example:

- “I have seen him here before.” (positive)
- “I have **not** seen him here before.” (negative)
- “I would have done the same.” (positive)
- “I would **not** have done the same.” (negative)

- Using **not** with only a main verb

If the verb phrase contains only a main verb, we negate it by adding *do/does/did + not*.

For example:

- “I go swimming on Mondays.” (positive)
- “I **do not** go swimming on Mondays.” (negative)
- “He works every day.” (positive)
- “He **does not** work every day.” (negative)
- “We went to the supermarket yesterday.” (positive)
- “We **did not** go to the supermarket yesterday.” (negative)

- Using **not** with the verb *be*



When a form of the verb *be* is the only verb in the statement, we place *not* after it. For example:

- “They *are* tall.” (positive)
- “They *are not* tall.” (negative)
- “It *is* an interesting project.” (positive)
- “It *is not* an interesting project.” (negative)

Other negative adverbs

The principle characteristic they all have in common is that we don't modify them with *not* because they already express negative meaning on their own.

- **Negative adverbs meaning “almost not”**

Some negative adverbs mean “almost not.” They are:

- **hardly**
- **barely**
- **scarcely**

These negative adverbs are placed in the same position as *not*. They generally go after the first auxiliary or modal verb, before a main verb when it is the only verb, and after forms of the verb *be*.

- “I **hardly** go out anymore.” (I almost don't go out anymore.)
- “I can **barely** see the mountain through the clouds.” (I almost can't see it.)
- “It's **scarcely** surprising that you're quitting your job.” (It is not very surprising at all.)

- **Negative adverbs meaning “not often” or “not ever”**

When we want to stress how infrequently something occurs, we can use these negative adverbs:

- no longer
- rarely
- seldom
- barely ever
- hardly ever
- never

Again, these adverbs are usually placed in the same position as *not*.

- “I **no longer** cook at home.” (I cooked at home before, but now I don’t.)
- “He has **seldom/rarely/hardly ever** played football.” (very infrequently)
- “We are **never** late.” (not ever)
- **Note:** *seldom*, *rarely*, *barely ever*, and *hardly ever* are interchangeable. They all mean “very infrequently.”

- **Negative adverbs that emphasize quick succession of events**

When we want to express that two events happened in quick succession (one event almost did not finish before the next event happened) we can use any of these negative adverbs:

- **hardly**
- **barely**
- **scarcely**
- **no sooner**

Some of these are the same negative adverbs that mean “almost not,” but when we use them for events in quick succession, we must use them in combination with either *when* (for *hardly*, *scarcely* and *barely*), or *than* (for *no sooner*).

The first event is usually expressed in the **past perfect** tense, with the negative adverb following the auxiliary verb *had*. The two clauses are joined with *when* or *than* (depending on which negative adverb is used), and the second event follows in the **past simple** tense.



- “We had **hardly** finished cleaning **when** the guests arrived.”
- “I had **barely** walked in the door **when** she called.”
- “She had **scarcely** been home five minutes **when** they arrived to take her to the movie.”
- “We had **no sooner** put dinner on the table **than** the doorbell rang.”

• Adverbial phrases for total negation

There are a few adverbial phrases that are used to completely negate a clause. For example:

- **under no circumstances**
- **in no way**
- **on no condition**

Like *not*, these adverbials can be placed in mid position:

- “We **in no way** like this plan.” (We don’t like this plan.)
- “We have **under no circumstances** allowed them to come inside.” (They have definitely not been allowed inside.)
- “She is **on no condition** to be disturbed.” (Don’t disturb her.)

• Using *only* for conditional negativity

Only can be used when we want to place conditions on whether something is going to occur or not. It most closely means “exclusively,” and can be used in several combinations.

- **only ... after**
- **only ... if**
- **only ... when**
- **only ... until**

Usually, we place *only* before the action that may or may not occur, and *if/after/when/until* before the condition. For example:

- “I will **only** go to the movie **if** you go too.”
- *Meaning:* I am not going to the movie if you don't go.
- “I'll **only** help you **when** you ask for it.”
- *Meaning:* I will not help you when you don't ask for help.
- “They are **only** living here **until** they find a new house.”
- *Meaning:* They will leave here when they find a new house.

Inversion

We have shown how negative adverbs are often placed in mid position. However, it's also very common for negative adverbs to appear at the beginning of a sentence. This is often done in more formal or literary styles, as well as when we want to place special emphasis on the negative adverb.

When we place the negative adverb at the beginning of the sentence, we must use **inversion**. This is when we rearrange the normal subject/verb order of the sentence. We already use the principle of inversion all the time when we form questions. For example:

- “*He has* seen this movie.” (no inversion)
- “*Has he* seen this movie?” (inversion)

To form the question, the subject (*he*) and the auxiliary verb (*has*) switch places. The process is the same when we use negative adverbs.

- **Inversion with auxiliary/modal verbs**

If a negative adverb is being used at the beginning a sentence that has a modal or auxiliary verb, we simply switch the order of the first auxiliary/modal verb and the subject.



- “*I have never* seen such a beautiful creature.” (no inversion)
- “**Never have I** seen such a beautiful creature.” (inversion)
- “*We had scarcely* arrived home when they called.” (no inversion)
- “**Scarcely had we** arrived home when they called.” (inversion)
- “*He can under no circumstances* play that game.” (no inversion)
- “**Under no circumstances can he** play that game.” (inversion)

• Inversion with only a main verb

If a negative adverb is placed at the beginning of a sentence that contains only a main verb, we must insert the auxiliary verbs *do/does* or *did* and use the **bare infinitive** form of the verb, just like when we form questions.

- “*We in no way like* this plan.” (no inversion)
- “**In no way do we like** this plan.” (inversion)
- “*She scarcely leaves* the city anymore.” (no inversion)
- “**Scarcely does she leave** the city anymore.” (inversion)
- “*He barely stopped* in time.” (no inversion)
- “**Barely did he stop** in time.” (inversion)

• Inversion with the verb “be”

When a negative adverb begins a sentence that only contains the verb *be*, we switch the order of the subject and *be* (again, the same as when we form questions):

- “*We are seldom* late.” (no inversion)
- “**Seldom are we** late.” (inversion)
- “*He is hardly* working.” (no inversion)
- “**Hardly is he** working.” (inversion)
- “*She is on no condition* to be disturbed.” (no inversion)
- **On no condition is she** to be disturbed.” (inversion)

• Inversion of “only” for conditional negativity

When we form negative conditional expressions with *only*, we have to do a bit more rearranging. The entire **conditional clause** joins *only* in the beginning of the sentence, and the subject-verb word order changes in the **main clause**. For example:

- “I will **only** go to the movie **if** you go too.” (no inversion)
- “**Only if** you go too *will I* go to the movie.” (inversion)
- “I’ll **only** help you **when** you ask for help.” (no inversion)
- “**Only when** you ask for help *will I* help you.” (inversion)
- “They are **only** living here **until** they find a new house.” (no inversion)
- “**Only until** they find a new house *are they* living here.” (inversion)

Practice:2

Fill in the blank:

1. Never -----seen such a beautiful place? (have I/ I have)
2. In no way----- be successful in this field. (he can/can he)
3. Seldom -----out for dinner. (does Shayla go/ she goes)
4. Hardly -----opened the door when I saw the thief. (I had/ had I)
5. Rarely -----attention to the teacher. (did the students pay/ the students paid)
6. Under no circumstance----- get into that room. (you can/ can you)
7. Many a time -----to escape, but he never did. (he tried/ did he try)
8. ----- to me, we wouldn't be here now. (had you listened/you had listened)
9. Never -----go there alone. (you can/ can you)
10. Only after years of education -----become a doctor. (you can /can you)



Common Errors

Negative adverbs leave lots of room for little mistakes. The most common errors are using double negatives, not using inversion when starting a sentence with a negative adverb, and misunderstanding or misusing the negative adverb *hardly*.

• Double Negatives

We generally cannot use **double negatives**, which occur when two negative elements are used in the same part of a sentence. We must remember that when we use a negative adverb, we cannot further negate the sentence with *no*, *not* or another negative adverb because the two negatives cancel each other out, making the sentence **affirmative** in meaning.

- “You **shouldn’t** under **no** circumstances cheat on a test.” (incorrect)
 - *Literal meaning*: There are certain circumstances under which you should cheat.
- “You should under **no** circumstances cheat on a test.” (correct)
 - *Meaning*: You should never cheat.
- “I **scarcely** had **not** enough time to get ready.” (incorrect)
 - *Literal meaning*: I actually had plenty of time to get ready.
- “I **scarcely** had enough time to get ready.” (correct)
 - *Meaning*: I almost did not have enough time.

Using double negative for emphasis

While we should generally avoid using double negatives in our speech and writing, there are certain circumstances in which they can be used for an emphatic or rhetorical effect to highlight that a negative element is not the case.

The most correct way to use a double negative in this manner is to pair a negative adverb with a negative adjective, as in:



- “I’m not an ungenerous man, I’m just very conscious of the rules.”
- “She proposed a few solutions, some of which were not impractical.”
- “He described a not unbelievable scenario of deception and lies.”

This usage is especially common in literary writing. In more day-to-day writing and speech, it is more common to use two adverbial nots together to emphasize that a negative action did not happen.

- “Well, I didn’t not tell him the truth; I just didn’t tell him the whole truth.”
- Literal meaning: I didn’t lie, I just left out some information.
- “You can’t just not go to school!”
- Literal meaning: You must go to school.

However, this is a much less formal construction, so it should only be used sparingly and not in formal or professional writing at all.

- **Not using inversion**

Another common error is when we place a negative adverb at the beginning of the sentence but forget to use inversion.

- “Under no circumstances *can you* watch that movie.” (correct)
- “Under no circumstances you can watch that movie.” (incorrect)

Meaning: You cannot watch that movie.

Explanation: You must invert the order of the subject (*you*) and the modal verb (*can*).

- “Never did he visit the Eiffel Tower.” (correct)
- “Never he did visit the Eiffel Tower.” (incorrect)

Meaning: He never visited the Eiffel Tower.

Explanation: You must invert the order of the subject (*he*) and the modal verb (*did*).

- **Hardly**

Finally, a common error is misusing or misunderstanding the meaning of the negative adverb *hardly*. Although many adverbs are formed by adding “-ly” to the end of an adjective, this is not the case with *hardly*.

The adverb form of the adjective *hard* is also *hard*. *Hardly*, however, never means “in a hard way,” but rather means “almost not.”

- “He’s working **hard**.” (correct—He’s working a lot or with much effort.)
- “He’s **hardly** working.” (correct—He’s almost not working at all.)
- “He’s working **hardly**.” (incorrect)

Practice:3

1. Which negative adverb does not mean the same as the other three?

- a) barely ever b) scarcely c) rarely d) never

2. Which sentence shows correct use of the negative adverb barely?

- a) “Barely she goes out anymore.” b) “She barely goes out anymore.”
c) “She goes barely out anymore.” d) “She goes barely anymore out.”

3. Which of the following sentences is incorrect?

- a) “I had no sooner finished cooking when they came in.”
b) “I had barely finished cooking when they came in.”
c) “I had scarcely finished cooking when they came in.”
d) “I had hardly finished cooking when they came in.”

4. Which of the following sentences uses inversion correctly?

- a) “Rarely have we tasted such delicious food.”

- b) "Rarely we have tasted such delicious food."
- c) "We have tasted such delicious food rarely."
- d) "Have we tasted rarely such delicious food."

5. Which of the following sentences is incorrect?

- a) "Under no circumstances can you go out on Saturday."
- b) "Never have I been so upset."
- c) "Scarcely has he not seen her in the last few years."
- d) "He's working hard."

Practice :4

1. (Never/I/meet) ----- such well-behaved children before. They are as good as gold.
2. (No sooner/my father/sit down) ----- to dinner than there was a knock on the door.
3. (Little/he/know) -----that his culinary skills are quite substandard.
4. (At no time/ I/ mean) -----to hurt your feelings. It was all a big misunderstanding.
5. (Seldom/we/ have) -----friends over for a drink. We prefer to meet them at pubs or restaurants.
6. (Not only/he/make)-----a mean cheesecake, but he also prepares homemade jam.
7. Only when the situation gets out of hand ------(the government/ begin) to act
8. Not until June -----(you/can /get) all the swimming gear out of the drawers.
9. (Only once/ I/climb) -----such a high mountain before.
10. Her eyes were very red. (only later/I/find out) -----that her fiancé had broken up with her.



Verb

We use causative verbs to show that someone or something caused something to happen. Causative verbs are: *get, have, make, let* and *help*.

- **Causative # 1 – HAVE/GET SOMETHING DONE (past participle form)**

This means that someone does something for you because you pay or ask them to do it , but you don't say who this person is.

Examples:

HAVE / GET	SOMETHING	DONE
He had / got	his hair	cut.
She didn't have / get	her teeth	checked.
I had / got	the leak in the roof	fixed.
Did you have / get	the TV	repaired?

- **Causative # 2 – HAVE SOMEONE DO SOMETHING (base form of verb)**

This means that someone does something for you because you pay or ask them to do it, but you also say who this person is.

Examples:

HAVE	SOMEONE	DO SOMETHING
The teacher had	the students	write a test.



I'll have	my assistant	call you with the details.
I had	the handyman	fix the leak.
Did you have	the electrician	repair the TV

• **Causative # 3 – GET SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING (to + base form of verb)**

This means someone does something for you because you persuade (= encourage, tell them that you'd like them to do something) them to do it. So this construction feels less neutral than the previous ones.

Examples:

GET	SOMEONE	TO DO SOMETHING
I (finally) got	my kids	to go to bed.
I can never get	my wife	to cook dinner.
Can you ever get	your sisters	to stop fighting?
Kevin got	his brothers	to take him on an adventure.

• **Causative # 4 – MAKE SOMEONE DO SOMETHING (base form of verb)**

This means that you force someone/something to do something for you.

Examples:

MAKE	SOMEONE/SOMETHING	DO SOMETHING
You make	your hips	sway.



Don't make	her (Sarah)	cry.
The teacher made	him (Peter)	work hard.
Why do you make	them (your parents)	worry so much about you?

- **Causative # 5 – LET SOMEONE/SOMETHING DO SOMETHING (base form of verb)**

This means that you allow (= let, give permission to do something) someone to do something or you allow something to happen.

Examples:

LET	SOMEONE/SOMETHING	DO SOMETHING
She let	the kids	stay up past midnight.
I let	the chicken	burn in the oven.
Why did he let	this	happen?
Let	me	go!

- **Causative # 6 – HELP SOMEONE (to) DO SOMETHING (to + base form of verb/ only base form of verb)**

This means that you help (= assist) someone (to) do something. This structure is most often used without 'to'.

Examples:

HELP	SOMEONE	(to) DO SOMETHING
Milk can help	you	fall asleep.
Could you help	me	carry my bags?

I don't see how this helps	them	understand the lesson.
Can computer games help	kids	learn to read?

Practice: 5

Choose the appropriate options to complete the sentences

1. Sally made me ---- my shoes before I went into her house. She said she wanted to keep the carpet clean.

- A) take off B) to take off C) taking off D) took off

2. I see that you have no time to clean the house on your own so you had better get somebody ---- it for you.

- A) done B) to do C) doing D) do

3. What you should do before an emergency occurs is to get your fire alarm ---- that will also make you feel safer.

- A) to fix B) fixed C) fix D) fixing

4. She had to have her phone number ---- because she was receiving obscene calls from a stranger.

- A) change B) changed C) to change D) changing

5. Her dress was too long, so she had it ----.

- A) shorten B) shortened C) shortening D) to shorten

6. You'd better have a plumber ---- the leak in the bathroom.

- A) repair B) repaired C) to repair D) repairing

7. Instead of buying a new pair of shoes, I had my old ones ----.

- A) repair B) repaired C) repairing D) to repair

8. I got everyone in the family ---- Mary's birthday card before I sent it to her.
A) sign B) to sign C) sign D) signed
9. I didn't have any time so I had my sister ---- my paper last night.
A) type B) to type C) typing D) typed
10. The teacher got the students ---- the first quatrain of the poem to make it easy to memorize.
A) write B) to write C) writing D) written
11. Regular repetition makes one ---- new words easily.
A) learn B) to learn C) learning D) learnt

Linking verb:

Linking verbs are verbs that serve as a connection between a subject and further information about that subject. They do not show any action; rather, they “link” the subject with the rest of the sentence. The verb *to be* is the most common linking verb, but there are many others, including all the sense verbs.

A handful—a very frequently used handful—of verbs are always linking verbs:

- all forms of to be (am, is, are, was, were, has been, are being, might be, etc.)
- to become
- to seem

These verbs always link subjects to something that further describes the subject of the sentence.

- She is a nurse.
- The moon is in outer space.
- I have become weary of your methodical approach to waltzing.
- The Dalai Lama seems like a nice guy.

These sentences show that a linking verb can connect the subject with a number of sentence elements. *Nurse* is a noun; *in outer space* is a prepositional phrase; *weary* is an adjective; and *a nice guy* is a phrase that contains both an adjective and a noun. All of them give us more information about what these subjects are, have become, or seem to be.

- **Some Verbs Can Be Both Action and Linking Verbs**

These include all the sense verbs, such as *look*, *touch*, *smell*, *appear*, *feel*, *sound*, and *taste*. There are also some outliers, such as *turn*, *grow*, *remain*, and *prove*. Used as linking verbs, these verbs can give added information about the sentence's subject.

- The ocean looked peaceful that fine Tuesday.
- I felt so excited that day.
- That man appears somewhat melancholy.
- The soup tastes spicier than usual.
- Rachel's theory about time management remains untested.

All these verbs can do double duty, however, as action verbs.

- I felt on the floor for my lost keys.
- The man appeared suddenly right in front of me.
- Would you taste that soup for me?
- Remain here while I go ask Rachel about time management.

Practice:6

Choose the most appropriate answer.

1. I can't give you this book because it -----mine. It belongs to Peter.

A) is B) isn't C) was D) wasn't

2. Her favorite occupation-----reading. She likes to read, and she reads a lot.

A) is B) is being C) to be D) was

3. What happened? You -----terrible! Are you hurt?
A) are B) be C) feel D) look
4. He-----a doctor after he graduated.
A) became B) is C) is getting D) will be
5. I'm sorry I said it. I----- so bad about it. Please forgive me.
A) appear B) feel C) look D) was
6. Your task-----to do the exercises on page 7.
A) being B) got C) looked D) was
7. It -----late. I really have to go now. Thank you for a lovely time. Good-bye!
A) goes B) is getting C) seemed D) was becoming
8. She went upstairs to check on her children. They-----to be sleeping, so she went to the kitchen to have some tea.
A) appeared B) are C) have grown D) seem
9. It-----so dark that they had to stop their search.
A) becomes B) felt C) gets D) grew
10. He-----tired to me. I told him to have some rest.
A) became B) got C) seemed D) was appearing

More Practice

1. I've had a full day's rest now and I feel much ----; at least ---- enough to be able to get out of bed.
A) the worst / worse B) better / well C) best / better
D) good / so well E) worse / as good
2. There is nothing ---- a slight breeze on a hot, sunny day.
A) refreshing enough B) as refreshed as C) more refreshing than
D) so refreshing that E) the most refreshed

3. The survey confirmed that house prices are ---- higher in the South than in the North.

- A) so B) more C) most D) as E) much

4. There is ---- a shortage of qualified teachers in England ---- the government is paying students to train in teaching.

- A) such / that B) so / as C) more / than D) too / than E) as / that

5. My father treasures the gold watch that he was given ---- a retirement present.

- A) like B) as C) such as D) so E) too

6. Some of the delegates were ---- with the Chairman's speech ---- they walked out.

- A) too disappointed / that B) more disappointing / than C) so disappointed / that
D) so disappointing / than E) as disappointed / as

7. Without the heavy make-up she wears, she looks ---- in real life ---- she does on television.

- A) young / so B) as young / that C) younger / than
D) the youngest / as E) so young / that

8. He wasn't ---- studious student in the class, but he worked ---- to pass the final examinations.

- A) the most / hard enough B) such / harder than C) more / so hard that
D) as much as / hardly E) too much / too hard

9. After we had been shopping, Alice and May went bowling, but I was ---- to join them.

- A) so tiring that B) the most tired C) so tired as
D) too tired E) as tiring as

10. The spot where Vicki's new house is located is ---- that all her friends and relatives want to visit her.

A) the most picturesque B) more picturesque than C) as picturesque

D) such a picturesque E) so picturesque

11. The amazing thing about "oltu stone" is that ---- you keep it, ---- it gets.

A) so long / so shiny B) the long / the shiny C) the longest / the shiniest

D) the longer / the shinier E) as long / as shiny

12. For me, ---- aspect of the conference was the decision to concentrate on environmental issues.

A) as encouraging B) so encouraged as C) more encouraged

D) the most encouraging E) such an encouraged

13. My father plays golf just for fun, although sometimes he plays ---- some professionals.

A) so skilful that B) as skillfully as C) more skillfully

D) the most skilful E) skillfully enough

14. She couldn't believe that her son had behaved ---- to be disciplined by the teacher.

A) as bad as B) worse than C) worse than

D) so badly that E) badly enough

15. The courts dealt with the farmer who had shot the thief ---- tolerantly ---- most people considered appropriate.

A) more / as B) so / as C) the most / than

D) less / than E) too / that

16. Because it all happened ----, he couldn't give the officer an accurate description of his attackers.

A) so suddenly B) as sudden C) too sudden

D) as suddenly E) the most sudden

17. The people have ---- distrust of the government in this African nation that few residents expect the elections to be fair.

A) so B) such C) as D) like E) much

18. He is feeling ----it can be expected after ---- a major operation.

A) well enough / like B) so well that / so C) as well as / such

D) better than / that E) the best / as

19. I felt ---- ill yesterday to get out of bed, but I'm feeling ---- better today.

A) as / much B) so / that C) more / so

D) enough / more E) too / a lot

20. This material is ---- to be stitched together on a sewing machine.

A) too delicate B) as delicately as C) so delicate that

D) delicately enough E) such a delicate

21. Certain household items, ____ bleach and insecticides, are very dangerous and should be kept away from children.

A) so much B) just as C) rather D) such as E) more

22. ____ students enrolled on the Serbo-Croat language course that they are discontinuing this class.

A) Fewer B) Less C) the least D) So little E) So few

23. I knew my grandmother was seriously ill as she couldn't speak ____.
- A) tactfully B) utterly C) anxiously D) courageously E) coherently
24. The council are looking for a qualified management accountant, but it is a / an ____ position to cover the present post holder's maternity leave.
- A) temporary B) immediate C) momentary
D) compulsory E) limitless
25. ____ petroleum and natural gas, coal is a carbonbased fossil fuel.
- A) Such as B) More C) So D) As E) Like
26. I thought we were being ____ we could be, but the neighbours still complained that we were ____.
- A) quieter than / such noisy B) as quiet as / too noisy
C) so quietly / noisy enough D) quietly enough / as noisy
E) the quietest / noisier
27. I didn't really want the children to eat all the ice cream, but I was ____ to argue with them.
- A) as tired as B) tired enough C) too tired
D) so tired that E) more tired than h
28. We were expecting it to be a little cool, but admittedly, none of us expected ____ weather ____ this for our club picnic.
- A) so awful / th B) as awfully / as C) more awfully / than
D) such awful / as E) the most awful / than

29. The oak tree in our garden is almost ____ the house itself.

- A) so tall that B) the tallest C) much taller
D) tall enough E) as tall as

30. In some southern counties in the USA, blacks outnumber whites by four to one. Yet ____ thirty-six years ago, in many of these counties, not a single black person has registered to vote.

- A) as recently as B) so recently that C) more recently
D) less recently E) recently enough

31. The shops on the main street have been restored and now they serve ____ boutiques and gift shops for tourists.

- A) such B) so C) as D) like E) enough

32. 'The Commercial Dispatch' is ____ of all the newspapers published in Mississippi.

- A) more progressive B) the most progressive C) as progressive as
D) too progressive E) so progressive that

33. Toads, which belong to ____ family ____ frogs, have shorter legs than frogs.

- A) the same / as B) more / than C) so / that
D) such / as E) rather / than

34. It was ____ injury that he struggled to carry on playing for the rest of the game.

- A) so painfully B) such a painful C) the most painful
D) as painful as E) too painfully

35. I felt quite out of place in my evening dress as most of the guests were ____ dressed.

- A) formally B) publicly C) privately D) casually E) peacefully

36. Most of the population of Canada live in the cities in the South, leaving the Arctic North ____ populated.
- A) plainly B) roughly C) sparsely D) densely E) primitively
37. For one she knew the answer to the question, and so, afraid to miss the chance, raised her hand ____.
- A) limitlessly B) temporarily C) reluctantly D) tenderly E) enthusiastically
38. The comedian Jasper Carrot doesn't tell jokes, but he describes daily life ____ audiences roar with laughter.
- A) as humorously as B) humorously enough C) such a humorous
D) more humorous than E) so humorously that
39. ____ birds ____ parrots, parakeets and mynahs learn to imitate sounds, but they do not have the capacity to think or to understand what they are saying.
- A) Rather / than B) So / that C) Much / like D) Such / as E) As / as
40. Canadian wolves are ____ wolves in the world and twice ____ a large dog.
- A) larger than / so big B) the largest / as big as C) large enough / bigger than
D) too large / too big E) so large / the biggest

Answer:

1: B 2: C 3: E 4: A 5: B 6: C 7: C 8: A 9: D 10: E 11: D 12: D 13: B 14: E 15: D 16: A 17: B 18:
C 19: E 20: A 21: D 22: E 23: E 24: A 25: E 26: B 27: C 28: D 29: E 30: A 31: C 32: B 33: A 34:
B 35: D 36: C 37: E 38: E 39: D 40: B



1. Would you like to get your money -----once again?
A) Be count B) To count C) Counting D) Counted E) None of these
2. The teacher made him -----on the bench
A) To stand B) Stand C) Standing D) Stands E) None of these
3. The teacher made the late comers -----in the class
A) To stand B) Stand C) To be stood D) Standing E) None of these
4. Amit got his radio -----at the shop
A) To repair B) Repaired C) To be repaired D) Repairing E) None of these
5. Shayla had a maidservant -----the kitchen
A) To clean B) Cleaning C) Clean D) Cleaned E) None of these
6. Does your mother get you -----in the house?
A) To be worked B) Worked C) Working D) To work E) None of these
7. The teacher -----the students -----on the bench as they had come without home-work.
A) Makes, standing B) Made, stand C) Made, standing
D) Make, stood E) None of these
8. The corporation -----the roads -----now-a-days
A) Is getting, repairing B) Is getting, repaired C) Was getting, repaired
D) Have get, repaired E) None of these
9. Nayan-----his father -----a new bicycle as his father had promised him
A) Got, bought B) Gets, buy C) Got, buy D) Got, to buy E) None of these

10. I have my car -----at my friend's garage every 3 months

- A) Service B) Serviced C) To service
D) Servicing E)None of these

11. Usually we -----our car -----at Rahim's garage

- A) Had, service B) Have, serviced C) Has, serviced
D) Have, served E) None of these

12. The Police made him-----his crime

- A) Confess B) Confessed C) Confesses
D) To confess E) None of these

13. The teacher made the naughty boy -----

- A) Tiptoed B) Tiptoeing C) Tiptoe D) To tiptoe E) None of these

Answer:

1. D	2. B	3. B	4. B	5. C
6. D	7. B	8. B	9. D	10. B
11. B	12. A	13. C		

Vocabulary

Words	English Meaning	Bangla Meaning
derivative	something derived; unoriginal	ব্যুৎপন্ন, অমৌলিক
desiccate	to dry completely	শুক করা, শুকানো
desuetude	state of disuse	অপ্রচলিত অবস্থা, অপ্রচলন
desultory	random; disconnected; rambling	অযৌক্তিক, অসংলগ্ন, এলোমেলো

deterrent	something that discourages or hinders	প্রতিরোধক, অন্তরায়
detraction	the act of taking away	হরণ, অবমূল্যায়ন
diaphanous	transparent; vague; insubstantial	স্বচ্ছ, নির্মল, পরিষ্কার
diatribe	bitter verbal attack	গালিগালাজ, তীব্র সমালোচনা
dichotomy	division into two usually contradictory parts	দ্বিধাবিভক্তি, দ্বিবিভাজন
diffidence	shyness; lack of confidence	দ্বিধা, সংশয়, আত্মবিশ্বাসহীনতা
diffuse	to spread out	ছড়িয়ে পড়া, বিকীর্ণ
digression	act of straying from the main point	অবাস্তরতা
dirge	funeral hymn	অন্ত্যেষ্টিগাথা
disabuse	free from a misconception	ভুল ধারণা বা মোহ থেকে মুক্ত করা
discerning	perceptive; exhibiting keen insight and good judgment	বিচক্ষণ, সূক্ষ্ম
discomfit	to make uneasy; disconcert	অস্বস্তি বোধ করানো
discordant	not in tune	অসঙ্গতিপূর্ণ, বিসদৃশ, মিলহীন
discredit	to dishonor; disgrace	অসম্মান, সুনামহানি করা
discrepancy	difference between	অসঙ্গতি, পার্থক্য, গরমিল
discrete	constituting a separate thing; distinct	পৃথক, স্বতন্ত্র
discretion	quality of showing self-restraint in speech or actions	সতর্কতা, বিচারবুদ্ধিসম্পন্নতা
disingenuous	not candid, crafty	কৃত্রিম, অসরল, কপট
disinterested	unprejudiced; objective	অনিচ্ছুক, বিমুখ, নির্লিপ্ত
disjointed	lacking order or coherence; dislocated	বিচ্ছিন্ন, অসম্পৃক্ত, অসংলগ্ন
dismiss	put away from consideration; reject	বরখাস্ত করা, অপসারিত করা, খারিজ করা
disparage	to belittle	অবজ্ঞা করা, সম্মানহানি করা
disparate	dissimilar	ভিন্ন, অসদৃশ
dissemble	to pretend; disguise one's motives	ভান করা, ছদ্মবেশ ধারণ করা,

		গোপন রাখা
disseminate	to spread; scatter; disperse	ছড়িয়ে দেওয়া, প্রচারিত করা
dissident	person who disagrees about beliefs	ভিন্নমতাবলম্বী, অননুগামী ব্যক্তি
dissolution	disintegration; debauchery	বিচ্ছেদ, ভঙ্গ
dissonance	discord; lack of harmony	অনৈক্য, ঐক্যহীনতা, অসংগতি
distend	to expand; swell out	প্রসারিত করা, ফোলানো
distill	extract the essential elements	পাতন করা, চূয়ানো
distract	inattentive; preoccupied	অমনোযোগী, আনমনা
diverge	to vary; go in different directions from the same point	বিচ্যুত, অপসারিত করা, ভিন্নমত হওয়া
divest	to strip; deprive; rid	অপসারণ, পরিত্যাগ করা, বর্জিত করা
divulge	to make known something that is secret	প্রকাশ করা, উদঘাটন করা, ফাঁস করা
doctrinaire	dogmatic; unyielding	মতবাদ
document	to provide with written evidence to support	প্রামাণ্য দলিলপত্রাদি হাজির করা
doggerel	poor verse	হালকা ছড়া
dogmatic	stating opinions without proof	যুক্তিপ্রমাণ ব্যতিরেকে উপস্থাপিত
dormant	inactive	সুপ্ত, অন্তর্নিহিত, ঘুমন্ত
dross	waste; worthless matter	আবর্জনা
dupe	to deceive; trick	প্রতারণা করা, ধোঁকা দেওয়া
ebullient	exhilarated; overly enthusiastic	উচ্ছ্বাসিত, উত্তেজিত
eclectic	selecting from various sources	সারগ্রাহী
effervescence	state of high spirits or liveliness; process of bubbling as gas escapes	উদ্দীপনা, অতিরিক্ত উত্তেজনা
effete	depleted of vitality; over refined; decadent	জীর্ণ, দুর্বল, অক্ষম
efficacy	effectiveness; efficiency	কার্যকারিতা, ফলপ্রসূতা

effrontery	shameless boldness; presumptuousness	ধৃষ্টতা, নির্লজ্জতা
egoism	the tendency to see things in relation to oneself; self-centeredness	অহংবোধ, স্বার্থপরতা
egotistical	excessively self-centered; conceited	অহংকারী
elegy	poem or song expressing lamentation	বিষাদসঙ্গীত, শোকসূচক গান
elicit	to provoke; draw out	প্রকাশ করা, বাহির করা
elixir	a substance believed to have the power to cure ills	শ্রেষ্ঠ ও অমোঘ ঔষধ
Elysian	delightful; blissful	পরম আনন্দময়
emaciated	thin and wasted	দুর্বল, কৃশ, ক্ষীণকায়
embellish	to adorn; enhance	সজ্জিত করা, অলঙ্কৃত করা
emollient	soothing; mollifying	প্রশমিত, কোমল করে এমন
empirical	derived from observation or experiment	অভিজ্ঞতামূলক, গবেষণামূলক
emulate	to imitate; copy	অনুকরণ করা, সমকক্ষ হইতে চেষ্টা করা
encomium	a formal expression of praise	স্তুতিবাদ
endemic	inherent; belonging to an area	স্থানীয়, জাতিগত
enervate	to weaken	শক্তিহীন করা, সাহসহীন করা
engender	to cause; produce	উৎপন্ন করা, জন্ম দেওয়া
enhance	to increase; improve	উন্নত করা, বর্ধিত করা
entomology	the scientific study of insects	কীটতত্ত্ব, পতঙ্গবিজ্ঞান
enunciate	to pronounce clearly	উচ্চারণ করা, প্রকাশ করা
ephemeral	short-lived; fleeting	ক্ষণস্থায়ী
epistemology	branch of philosophy that examines the nature of knowledge	জ্ঞানতত্ত্ব
equable	steady; unvarying; serene	সমান, সুষম
equanimity	composure; calmness	মনের স্থিরতা
equivocate	intentionally use vague language	ব্যঙ্গ করা, বাচ্চাতুরী করা
errant	mistaken; straying from the proper	ভুল, বিচ্যুতি

	course	
erudite	learned; scholarly	পাণ্ডিত, জ্ঞানী
esoteric	hard to understand; known only to a few	গুপ্ত, আভ্যন্তরীণ, রহস্যমূলক
essay	to make an attempt; subject to a test	প্রচেষ্টা, চেষ্টা
estimable	admirable; possible to estimate	অনুমানযোগ্য, মান্য
ethnocentric	based on the attitude that one's group is superior	জাতিকেন্দ্রিক
etiology	causes or origins	কারণ-অনুসন্ধান
etymology	origin an history of a word	বুৎপত্তি, শব্দতত্ত্ব
eugenics	study of factors that influence the hereditary qualities of the human race and ways to improve those qualities	সুপ্রজননবিদ্যা
eulogy	high praise to a death person	প্রশংসাত্মক উক্তি
euphemism	use of agreeable or inoffensive language in place of offensive language	শ্রুতিকটু পদের পরিবর্তে কোমলতর পদের প্রয়োগ
euphoria	feeling of extreme happiness	উচ্ছ্বাস, কুশল এবং আনন্দ-চঞ্চল অবস্থা
euthanasia	mercy killing	মৃত্যুর সহজ প্রণালী
evince	to show plainly; be an indication of	স্পষ্ট প্রদর্শন করা
evocative	tending to call to mind or produce a reaction	উদ্দীপক
exacerbate	to aggravate; make worse	বৃদ্ধি করা, তিজ করা, অধিকতর খারাপ করা
exact	to force the payment of; demand and obtain by authority	দাবী করা, বলপূর্বক আদায় করা
exculpate	to clear of blame; vindicate	দোষী সাব্যস্ত করা
execrable	detestable; abhorrent	জঘন্য, ঘৃণিত, অভিশপ্ত
exhort	to urge by strong appeals	উপদেশ দেওয়া, পরামর্শ দেওয়া
exigency	crisis; urgent requirements	সংকট, জরুরি অবস্থা,



		অত্যাবশ্যিকতা
existential	having to do with existence	অস্তিত্বগত, অস্তিত্ব-সম্বন্ধীয়
exorcise	to expel evil spirits; free from bad influences	ভূতপ্রেত বাড়ানো
expatiate	to speak or write at length	বিস্তারিতরূপে বর্ণনা করা
expatriate	to send into exile	নির্বাসিত করা
expiate	to atone for	প্রায়শ্চিত্ত করা, খেসারৎ দেওয়া

Answer Sheet

P1

1. Tall	2. More nourishing	3. Most valuable	4. Great	5. Famous
6. Most precious	7. Wiser	8. well	9. Popular	10. Faster
11. Nicer	12. Older	13. Most difficult	14. Most interesting	15. better
16. more boring	17. more dangerous	18. cheaper	19. smaller	20. Funniest

P2

1. Have I	2. Can he	3. Does Shayla go	4. Had I	5. Did the students pay
6. Can you	7. Did he	8. Had you	9. Can	10. Can you



	try	listened	you	
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P3

1. D	2. B	3. A	4. A	5. C
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P4

1. Never have I met	2. No sooner had my father sat down	3. Little does he know	4. At no time did I mean	5. Seldom do we have
6. Not only does he make	7. Will the government begin	8. Can you get	9. Only once have I climbed	10. Only later did I find out

P5

1. Take off	2. To do	3. Fixed	4. Changed
5. Shortened	6. repair	7. Repaired	8. To sign
9. Type	10. To write	11. Learn	12.

P6

1. B	2. A	3. D	4. A	5. B
6. D	7. B	8. A	9. D	10. C