

Adjectives

Part of Speech

COMPLETE CONCEPT EXPLANATION

1. Definition

An adjective is a word that modifies, qualifies, or describes a noun or pronoun. It gives additional information about the noun or pronoun by answering questions such as: What kind? Which one? How many? How much? Whose? An adjective narrows down the reference of the noun by attributing a quality, quantity, or identity to it.

Key insight: An adjective always relates to a noun or pronoun — directly (attributive position) or through a linking verb (predicative position). Without this relationship, the word is not functioning as an adjective.

2. Positions of Adjectives

| Position | Pattern & Example |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Attributive (before noun) | The tall man arrived. She wore a red dress. |
| Predicative (after linking verb) | The man is tall. The dress looks red. |
| Post-positive (after noun) | Something unusual happened. The president elect spoke. |
| Absolute (standalone, subject-less) | Exhausted, he collapsed on the sofa. Pale and trembling, she read the letter. |

3. Types and Classifications of Adjectives

3.1 Descriptive (Qualitative) Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives express a quality or state of a noun. They are the most common type and answer the question 'What kind?'

RULE 1 Descriptive adjectives describe the inherent quality of a noun. They can appear in both attributive and predicative positions without change of form.

Ex. 1 The ancient ruins stood silently on the hilltop. (attributive)

Ex. 2 The ruins were ancient and well-preserved. (predicative)

Ex. 3 She gave an eloquent, passionate speech that moved the audience to tears.

3.2 Proper Adjectives

Proper adjectives are derived from proper nouns (names of specific people, places, or things). They are always capitalised.

RULE 2 Proper adjectives are always written with a capital letter, regardless of where they appear in a sentence.

Ex. 1 She is learning the French language and Italian cuisine simultaneously.

Ex. 2 The Shakespearean themes in the play were evident from the opening act.

Ex. 3 He admired the Victorian architecture of the old railway station.

3.3 Quantitative Adjectives

Quantitative adjectives indicate the quantity of a noun — either as an exact number or an approximate amount. They answer 'How many?' or 'How much?'

RULE 3 Quantitative adjectives precede countable or uncountable nouns according to their type: numerals go before countable nouns; words like 'much', 'little', 'enough' go before uncountable nouns.

Ex. 1 She drank three glasses of water before the meeting started.

Ex. 2 There is little hope of recovery if the treatment is not started immediately.

Ex. 3 He spent much time preparing for the presentation but still felt nervous.

3.4 Numeral Adjectives

Numeral adjectives specify the exact number or order of nouns. They are classified into cardinal (one, two, three...), ordinal (first, second, third...), and multiplicative (double, triple...).

RULE 4 Cardinal numerals state 'how many'; ordinal numerals state 'in what order'. Ordinal adjectives require the definite article 'the' when referring to sequence in a specific context.

Ex. 1 Two students submitted their assignments after the deadline. (cardinal)

Ex. 2 The third chapter of the book contains the most important concepts. (ordinal)

Ex. 3 She received a double portion of the prize money for her outstanding effort. (multiplicative)

3.5 Demonstrative Adjectives

Demonstrative adjectives point out specific nouns. The four demonstrative adjectives in English are: this, that, these, those.

RULE 5 'This' and 'these' refer to things near in space or time; 'that' and 'those' refer to things far in space or time. 'This/that' precede singular nouns; 'these/those' precede plural nouns.

Ex. 1 This book on the table belongs to the principal. (near, singular)

Ex. 2 Those students at the back of the hall were talking during the lecture. (far, plural)

Ex. 3 That decision made in 1947 changed the course of the nation's history. (far in time, singular)

3.6 Interrogative Adjectives

Interrogative adjectives are used with nouns to ask questions. The three interrogative adjectives are: which, what, whose.

RULE 6 Interrogative adjectives must be immediately followed by the noun they modify. 'Which' implies a limited, defined set of choices; 'what' implies an unlimited or open set.

Ex. 1 Which route should we take to avoid the traffic jam? (limited set)

Ex. 2 What time does the first express train leave the station? (open set)

Ex. 3 Whose laptop was left unattended in the conference room all evening?

3.7 Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives show ownership or relationship. They are: my, your, his, her, its, our, their, one's.

RULE 7 Possessive adjectives precede the noun directly and never take an article before them. 'Its' (possessive) must never be confused with 'it's' (it is).

Ex. 1 The committee submitted its final report to the board of directors on Friday.

Ex. 2 Our decision to expand the company's operations was met with widespread approval.

Ex. 3 Their combined experience made them the strongest candidates for the position.

3.8 Distributive Adjectives

Distributive adjectives refer to members of a group individually or collectively. Key distributive adjectives: each, every, either, neither, any.

RULE 8 'Each' and 'every' take singular nouns and singular verbs. 'Either' and 'neither' refer to exactly two items. 'Every' cannot be used with singular countable nouns that have a determiner other than itself.

Ex. 1 Each student in the batch is required to submit a project proposal by Friday.

Ex. 2 Neither candidate met the minimum eligibility criteria for the senior position.

Ex. 3 Every attempt to solve the equation without calculus proved to be futile.

3.9 Indefinite Adjectives

Indefinite adjectives refer to nouns in a non-specific way. Common indefinite adjectives: some, any, few, many, several, all, both, more, most, other, another, less.

RULE 9 'Few' (without 'a') means 'not many' (negative connotation); 'a few' means 'some' (positive connotation). Similarly, 'little' = 'almost none'; 'a little' = 'some'. Apply this distinction carefully.

Ex. 1 Few scientists fully understand the implications of this quantum phenomenon. (almost none)

Ex. 2 A few volunteers showed up, which was enough to run the relief camp efficiently. (some)

Ex. 3 Several reports indicated that the infrastructure had not been maintained for decades.

3.10 Exclamatory Adjectives

The word 'what' functions as an exclamatory adjective when used to express strong emotion before a noun.

RULE 10 'What' as an exclamatory adjective precedes a noun (with or without an article) to express admiration, surprise, or indignation. It is not a question and does not invert subject-verb order.

Ex. 1 What a remarkable performance the young pianist gave last night!

Ex. 2 What courage it takes to stand alone against an entire institution!

Ex. 3 What terrible news arrived just moments before the celebration was to begin!

3.11 Degrees of Comparison

Most descriptive adjectives can be graded to show degrees of quality: positive, comparative, and superlative.

| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| tall | taller | tallest |
| beautiful | more beautiful | most beautiful |
| good | better | best |
| bad | worse | worst |
| far | farther / further | farthest / furthest |
| many / much | more | most |
| little | less | least |
| late | later / latter | latest / last |

RULE 11 Use the comparative degree when comparing exactly TWO things/persons. Use the superlative when comparing THREE or more. Never use superlative for two items.

Ex. 1 Of the two plans presented, Plan A is more viable than Plan B. (two = comparative)

Ex. 2 Among all the proposals received, hers was the most innovative. (many = superlative)

Ex. 3 She is the taller of the two sisters. (NOT the tallest — only two being compared)

RULE 12 Adjectives of one syllable take '-er' and '-est'. Adjectives of three or more syllables use 'more' and 'most'. Most two-syllable adjectives ending in -y, -ow, -le, or -er take '-er/-est'; others use 'more/most'. NEVER use both forms together.

Ex. 1 This road is narrower than the one we took yesterday. (two syllables, -ow)

Ex. 2 The hospital's approach was more professional than expected. (three syllables — 'more')

Ex. 3 WRONG: She is more smarter. RIGHT: She is smarter. (never double comparison)

RULE 13 When using comparative adjectives, the comparison must be parallel and logical — compare the same class of things. Use 'than that of' or 'than those of' to avoid illogical comparison.

Ex. 1 The climate of Mumbai is wetter than that of Delhi. (NOT: wetter than Delhi)

Ex. 2 The laws of ancient Rome were stricter than those of medieval Europe.

Ex. 3 Her handwriting is more legible than his. (pronoun 'his' functions as ellipsis for 'his handwriting')

RULE 14 Certain adjectives are absolute in meaning — they cannot logically be compared. Words like 'unique', 'perfect', 'complete', 'infinite', 'dead', 'circular', 'pregnant', 'universal' do not have degrees.

Ex. 1 WRONG: Her design is more unique than theirs. RIGHT: Her design is unique.

Ex. 2 WRONG: He gave the most perfect answer. RIGHT: He gave a perfect answer.

Ex. 3 ACCEPTABLE (informal): This solution is more nearly perfect than the previous one. (comparative of nearness to the absolute, not of the absolute itself)

3.12 Order of Adjectives (DOSACOMP)

When multiple adjectives appear before a noun, English follows a strict sequence. A memory device for this is DOSACOMP:

| Order & Category | Examples |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| D — Determiner | a, the, my, this, three |
| O — Opinion/Observation | lovely, awful, beautiful, strange |
| S — Size | large, tiny, enormous, small |
| A — Age | old, young, ancient, new |
| C — Colour | red, blue, golden, pale |
| O — Origin | French, Chinese, African, Nordic |
| M — Material | wooden, silver, cotton, plastic |
| P — Purpose/Qualifier | sleeping (bag), running (shoes) |

RULE 15 Adjectives must appear in the canonical order (DOSACOMP). Reversing this order produces sentences that are grammatically awkward and unnatural in standard English.

Ex. 1 She wore a beautiful long ancient Chinese silk ceremonial robe. (correct order)

Ex. 2 They discovered a small old round wooden treasure chest in the attic.

Ex. 3 He drove a lovely little fast red Italian racing car around the track.

3.13 Adjectives Used as Nouns

Some adjectives can function as nouns when preceded by 'the'. These refer to a whole class of people sharing that quality.

RULE 16 When 'the' + adjective is used to refer to a class of people, it takes a plural verb. It cannot be made plural by adding '-s'.

Ex. 1 The poor are not always voiceless — they deserve representation. (plural verb)

Ex. 2 The brave deserve recognition long after the battle has ended.

Ex. 3 WRONG: The poors need help. RIGHT: The poor need help. (no '-s' when used as a noun for a class)

4. Common Errors — Correct vs. Incorrect

| X INCORRECT | ✓ CORRECT |
|---|---|
| She is more elder than me. | She is elder than me. / She is older than me. |
| He is the most unique designer in the team. | He is a unique designer in the team. |
| This is the best of the two options. | This is the better of the two options. |
| The climate of Chennai is hotter than Mumbai. | The climate of Chennai is hotter than that of Mumbai. |
| She wore a silk beautiful old dress. | She wore a beautiful old silk dress. |
| Each of the students were present. | Each of the students was present. |
| Neither of the answers are correct. | Neither of the answers is correct. |
| The book is more cheaper than expected. | The book is cheaper than expected. |
| It's fur was shiny and smooth. | Its fur was shiny and smooth. |
| The poors deserve government support. | The poor deserve government support. |

5. Memory Tricks & Mnemonics

DOSACOMP — Determiner, Opinion, Size, Age, Colour, Origin, Material, Purpose. Remember: 'Dogs Often Sleep And Chew On Messy Pillows'.

Few vs. A Few: Think 'A' = Affirmative. 'A few' is positive (some help arrived); 'few' alone is negative (barely any arrived).

Comparatives for Two, Superlative for Three+: 'Com-PAIR-ative' contains the word PAIR — a pair means two.

Absolute Adjectives: If the adjective means 'complete in itself' (unique, perfect, dead, infinite), it needs no comparison. Ask: 'Can something be MORE infinite?' If it sounds absurd, it's absolute.

Its vs. It's: 'It's' = It is. Substitute 'it is' in the sentence — if it works, use it's; if it doesn't, use its.

RULES SUMMARY

A quick-revision reference of all rules covered in this document.

| # | Rule | Example |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Descriptive adjectives describe quality; usable in attributive and predicative positions. | The ancient ruins / The ruins are ancient. |
| 2 | Proper adjectives are always capitalised. | French cuisine, Shakespearean themes. |
| 3 | Quantitative adjectives match countability: 'much/little' for uncountable; numerals for countable. | much time; three bottles. |
| 4 | Ordinal adjectives require 'the' when referring to a specific sequence. | The third chapter is crucial. |
| 5 | 'This/that' with singular; 'these/those' with plural. Near vs. far distinction applies. | This book; those students. |
| 6 | 'Which' = limited choice; 'what' = open/unlimited choice. | Which route? What time? |
| 7 | Possessive adjectives never take an article before them. 'Its' ≠ 'it's'. | Her bag; its colour. |

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|
| 8 | 'Each'/'every' take singular verbs. 'Either'/'neither' refer to exactly two items. | Each student is responsible. |
| 9 | 'Few' = negative (barely any); 'A few' = positive (some). Same for 'little' vs. 'a little'. | Few came. A few helped. |
| 10 | Exclamatory 'what' precedes a noun without subject-verb inversion. | What a brilliant idea! |
| 11 | Comparative for two; superlative for three or more. Never mix. | Taller of the two; tallest of all. |
| 12 | One-syllable → -er/-est. Three+ syllables → more/most. Never use both forms together. | Smarter (NOT more smarter). |
| 13 | Comparisons must be parallel. Use 'than that of' / 'than those of' for logical comparison. | ...hotter than that of Delhi. |
| 14 | Absolute adjectives cannot be compared: unique, perfect, dead, infinite, complete, circular. | WRONG: more unique. RIGHT: unique. |
| 15 | Multiple adjectives follow the DOSACOMP order. | A beautiful old French painting. |
| 16 | 'The' + adjective = a class of people; takes plural verb; never add '-s' to adjective. | The poor deserve support. |

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISTAKE (Q1–Q15)

Each sentence below contains one adjective-related error. Identify the error, correct it, and briefly state the grammar rule being violated.

- Q1.** He is the most intelligent of the two candidates shortlisted for the managerial role.
- Q2.** She wore a silk old beautiful Japanese kimono to the cultural evening.
- Q3.** This is the most unique painting I have ever seen in any gallery across the country.
- Q4.** The climate of Shimla is much cooler than Jaipur, especially during the winter months.
- Q5.** Each of the participants were asked to submit their individual feedback forms online.
- Q6.** Neither of the proposals submitted by the two firms were found to be acceptable.
- Q7.** The childrens' enthusiasm was admirable, but their behaviour was more worst than expected.
- Q8.** There is less opportunities for growth in this sector compared to the technology industry.
- Q9.** It's design is elegant, but the product lacks the durability expected at this price point.
- Q10.** She is more elder than her colleague, yet she defers to his judgment on most matters.
- Q11.** The poors in the region have been the most affected by the recent rise in food prices.
- Q12.** He was the more brave of all the soldiers who volunteered for the dangerous mission.
- Q13.** A few water was left in the bottle, so she decided to share it with the exhausted runner.
- Q14.** The government's response was more quicker than anticipated, given the scale of the crisis.
- Q15.** Which of these all options do you think is the most feasible for implementation next quarter?

CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD (Q16–Q30)

Choose the most grammatically precise option to fill in the blank. More than one option may seem correct at first glance — read all choices carefully before deciding.

- Q16.** ___ of the two routes suggested by the GPS is safe to take at night.
(a) Either (b) Neither (c) Any (d) Each
- Q17.** The professor noted that ___ research in this area had been published in peer-reviewed journals.
(a) few (b) little (c) a few (d) a little

- Q18.** ___ a phenomenal comeback it was — the crowd simply could not believe what they had witnessed!
(a) How (b) What (c) Such (d) So
- Q19.** This is ___ difficult problem I have encountered in all my years of practice.
(a) the most (b) the more (c) a more (d) the much
- Q20.** ___ student who appeared in the examination is expected to collect their result from the office.
(a) Each (b) All (c) Every (d) Some
- Q21.** He made ___ progress in the first semester that the faculty recommended him for a scholarship.
(a) such a remarkable (b) so remarkable a (c) a remarkable such (d) such remarkable
- Q22.** The findings of this study are ___ consistent with those of the earlier investigation.
(a) more (b) most (c) much (d) many
- Q23.** She is ___ person I know who can solve this level of problem without a calculator.
(a) the only (b) only the (c) an only (d) the sole only
- Q24.** Of the two essays submitted, the second was ___ argued and more clearly structured.
(a) more better (b) better (c) best (d) more well
- Q25.** ___ attempts were made to resolve the dispute before the matter was referred to the court.
(a) Several (b) Much (c) A large amount of (d) A good deal of
- Q26.** The committee found ___ evidence to support the claim and therefore dismissed the petition.
(a) little (b) few (c) a little (d) a few
- Q27.** ___ member of the delegation was given a personalised schedule for the three-day summit.
(a) Every (b) All (c) Some (d) Most
- Q28.** The situation is ___ serious than the administration initially acknowledged to the press.
(a) more (b) most (c) much more (d) far most
- Q29.** ___ news about the merger has already reached the shareholders, despite the official silence.
(a) Some (b) Any (c) Many (d) Few

- Q30.** ____ of the two solutions proposed by the engineering team is technically viable without further testing.
(a) Neither (b) None (c) Both (d) Each

CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE (Q31–Q45)

Only ONE sentence in each group is grammatically correct. Identify it and be prepared to explain why the other three are wrong.

- Q31.** Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) She is more talented of the two sisters who auditioned for the lead role.
- (b) She is the most talented of the two sisters who auditioned for the lead role.
- (c) She is the more talented of the two sisters who auditioned for the lead role.
- (d) She is the talented more than the other of the two sisters who auditioned.

- Q32.** Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) The infrastructure of Delhi is much more developed than Mumbai.
- (b) The infrastructure of Delhi is much more developed than that of Mumbai.
- (c) The infrastructure of Delhi is much more developed than Mumbai's infrastructure is.
- (d) The infrastructure of Delhi is much more developed than those of Mumbai.

- Q33.** Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) It's design has won several international awards for minimalism and innovation.
- (b) Its design has won several international awards for minimalism and innovation.
- (c) Its' design has won several international awards for minimalism and innovation.
- (d) It design has won several international awards for minimalism and innovation.

- Q34.** Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) The hungry were served first at the relief camp set up by the volunteers.
- (b) The hungries were served first at the relief camp set up by the volunteers.
- (c) The hungry peoples were served first at the relief camp set up by the volunteers.

(d) Hungry ones were served first at the relief camp set up by the volunteers.

Q35. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) He wore a old gorgeous handmade Italian leather jacket to the premiere.
- (b) He wore a gorgeous handmade old Italian leather jacket to the premiere.
- (c) He wore a gorgeous old handmade Italian leather jacket to the premiere.
- (d) He wore a leather gorgeous old handmade Italian jacket to the premiere.

Q36. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) Each of the managers have been informed about the restructuring plan.
- (b) Each of the managers has been informed about the restructuring plan.
- (c) Each managers has been informed about the restructuring plan.
- (d) Each of managers have been informed about the restructuring plan.

Q37. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) Her solution is more perfect than any other solution submitted this year.
- (b) Her solution is the most perfect one among all submissions this year.
- (c) Her solution is as perfect as any submitted this year — arguably the best.
- (d) Her solution is more perfectly crafted than any other solution this year.

Q38. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) What an extraordinary display of courage the firefighters showed!
- (b) What a extraordinary display of courage the firefighters showed!
- (c) How extraordinary display of courage the firefighters showed!
- (d) What extraordinary display of courage did the firefighters show!

Q39. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) He is the most cleverest student I have encountered in two decades of teaching.
- (b) He is most clever student I have encountered in two decades of teaching.
- (c) He is the cleverest student I have encountered in two decades of teaching.
- (d) He is more cleverest student I have encountered in two decades of teaching.

Q40. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) A little volunteers came forward, but they managed to complete the task.
- (b) Few volunteers came forward, but they managed to complete the task.
- (c) Little volunteers came forward, but they managed to complete the task.
- (d) A few of volunteers came forward, but they managed to complete the task.

Q41. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) Neither argument presented by the defence was found to be compelling.
- (b) Neither of arguments presented by the defence was found to be compelling.
- (c) Neither arguments presented by the defence were found to be compelling.
- (d) Neither argument presented by the defence were found to be compelling.

Q42. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) Which book of these two did you find more informative and better-written?
- (b) Which book of both did you find most informative and better-written?
- (c) What book of these two did you find more informative and better-written?
- (d) Whose book of these two did you find more informative and better-written?

Q43. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) The aged are cared for with great respect in most traditional societies.
- (b) The ageds are cared for with great respect in most traditional societies.
- (c) The aged peoples are cared for with great respect in most traditional societies.
- (d) Aged are cared for with great respect in most traditional societies.

Q44. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) This is the best decision of the two available to the board at this juncture.
- (b) This is the better decision of the two available to the board at this juncture.
- (c) This is the more better decision of the two available to the board at this juncture.
- (d) This is the most better decision of the two available to the board at this juncture.

Q45. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (a) Those informations provided in the report are outdated and unreliable.
- (b) These information provided in the report are outdated and unreliable.
- (c) This information provided in the report is outdated and unreliable.
- (d) That informations provided in the report is outdated and unreliable.

CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN (Q46–Q60)

These questions demand deep grammatical analysis, clause identification, paragraph correction, rewriting for precision, and reasoning through competing rules.

Q46. Rewrite the following sentence to correct the adjective order error, then name the two adjective categories that were transposed: 'She bought a leather beautiful small ancient bag at the antique market.'

Q47. Analyse the sentence: 'The more patient a leader is, the more effective the team becomes.' Identify the adjectives, state their degrees, and explain the grammatical construction being used.

Q48. The following paragraph contains FOUR adjective-related errors. Identify each error, state what type of mistake it is, and rewrite the paragraph correctly: 'The committee made a most unique decision: it declared that each of the members were given equal but separate role. Neither proposals were accepted without revision. It's reasoning was flawed from the start.'

Q49. Explain the difference in meaning between these two sentences: (A) 'Few scientists believe the hypothesis.' (B) 'A few scientists believe the hypothesis.' Now construct two original sentences of your own that demonstrate the same contrast using 'little' and 'a little'.

Q50. Rewrite the following sentence using a logically parallel comparison and explain what was wrong with the original: 'The economy of Germany is stronger than France.'

- Q51.** Identify all the adjectives in the following sentence, classify each by type, and state its position (attributive/predicative/post-positive): 'Those three young Indian athletes performed brilliantly, and the exhausted crowd remained enthusiastic throughout.'
- Q52.** A student wrote: 'She is the most brilliant of the two finalists and gave a more perfect answer than anyone in the room.' Identify BOTH errors, explain the rule each violates, and write the corrected sentence.
- Q53.** Compare and contrast the use of 'elder/eldest' versus 'older/oldest'. Provide one sentence for each and explain when each pair is appropriate.
- Q54.** Explain why 'The brave' in 'The brave shall inherit the earth' is grammatically a noun phrase, not an adjective phrase. What grammatical transformation has occurred, and what rule governs the verb agreement?
- Q55.** The following sentence uses three adjectives incorrectly. Find them, explain each error, and rewrite: 'She showed less enthusiasm than him, but her approach was more unique and the most complete of the pair.'
- Q56.** Rewrite the following sentences replacing all predicative adjectives with attributive adjectives, and state whether the meaning changes: (A) 'The solution proposed was elegant.' (B) 'The child who was tired fell asleep.'
- Q57.** Discuss the grammatical distinction between 'a historic moment' and 'an historic moment'. Which is correct and why? Also explain the related rule governing 'a' vs. 'an' before adjectives beginning with 'h'.
- Q58.** Analyse this sentence for errors: 'Each student must submit their own assignment, which should be comprehensive, original, and more creative than the others in the class.' Identify and explain any adjective-related error you find.

Q59. Rewrite the following sentences using degrees of comparison without changing the meaning: (A) 'No other city in India is as populous as Mumbai.' (B) 'Very few metals are as hard as diamond.'

Q60. Critically examine this sentence: 'The further you go into the report, the lesser the errors you will find.' Identify any error in adjective use, explain the grammatical rule, and provide the corrected version.

ANSWERS — ALL 60 QUESTIONS

Full explanations follow for every question. For MCQs, the correct option is explained and each incorrect option is individually analysed.

CATEGORY 1 — SPOT THE MISTAKE (Q1–Q15): Answer Key

Q1 Ans: Error: 'most intelligent' should be 'more intelligent'.

Only two candidates are being compared. The comparative degree ('more intelligent') is used for two; the superlative ('most intelligent') is reserved for three or more. Using 'most' for two is a grammar error.

Q2 Ans: Error: 'silk old beautiful Japanese' should be 'beautiful old Japanese silk'.

Adjectives follow the DOSACOMP order: Opinion → Size → Age → Colour → Origin → Material. 'Beautiful' (opinion) must come first, then 'old' (age), then 'Japanese' (origin), and finally 'silk' (material). Reversing this is grammatically incorrect.

Q3 Ans: Error: 'most unique' should simply be 'unique'.

'Unique' is an absolute adjective meaning 'one of a kind'. It cannot logically be graded. Using 'most unique' implies degrees of uniqueness, which is a logical impossibility. Correct usage: 'This is a unique painting.'

Q4 Ans: Error: 'than Jaipur' should be 'than that of Jaipur'.

The comparison must be parallel. 'The climate of Shimla' is being compared — the correct counterpart is 'the climate of Jaipur', not 'Jaipur' (the city). Using 'than that of Jaipur' ensures a logical, parallel comparison.

Q5 Ans: Error: 'were asked' should be 'was asked'.

'Each' is a distributive adjective that always takes a singular verb, even when followed by a prepositional phrase with a plural noun ('of the participants'). The verb must agree with 'each', not with 'participants'.
Correct: 'Each of the participants was asked...'

Q6 Ans: Error: 'were found' should be 'was found'.

'Neither' is a distributive adjective referring to exactly two items and always takes a singular verb. 'Neither of the proposals was found...' is correct. Using 'were' violates subject-verb agreement with the distributive adjective 'neither'.

Q7 Ans: Two errors: 'childrens' is not a valid form (correct: 'children's'); 'more worst' is a double comparative error — correct: 'worse'.

'Children' is an irregular plural; its possessive is 'children's', not 'childrens'. 'Worst' is already the superlative of 'bad'; adding 'more' creates an illegal double comparison. 'Worse' is the correct comparative form.

Q8 Ans: Error: 'less opportunities' should be 'fewer opportunities'.

'Less' is used with uncountable (mass) nouns; 'fewer' is used with countable nouns. 'Opportunities' is countable (you can count individual opportunities), so 'fewer' is the correct quantitative adjective here.

Q9 Ans: Error: 'It's' should be 'Its'.

'It's' is a contraction of 'it is'. The possessive adjective is 'its' (no apostrophe). Substituting 'it is design' into the sentence reveals the error immediately. Correct: 'Its design is elegant...'

Q10 Ans: Error: 'more elder' should be 'elder' or 'older'.

'Elder' is already a comparative adjective. It cannot be preceded by 'more' — doing so creates a double comparison. 'Elder' is used for family relationships; 'older' is used for general age comparisons. Both are correct here; 'more elder' is not.

Q11 Ans: Error: 'The poors' should be 'The poor'. Also 'the most affected' could be 'most affected' (no 'the' needed with passive participial adjective). Primary error: 'poors'.

When an adjective is used as a noun to refer to a class of people (the poor, the rich, the elderly), it is never pluralised by adding '-s'. 'The poors' is grammatically incorrect. Correct: 'The poor in the region have been most affected...'

Q12 Ans: Error: 'the more brave' should be 'the bravest'.

More than two soldiers are implied by 'all the soldiers who volunteered' — a group context requiring the superlative. Moreover, 'brave' is a one-syllable adjective that takes '-est', not 'more'. Correct: 'He was the bravest of all the soldiers...'

Q13 Ans: Error: 'A few water' should be 'A little water'.

'A few' is used with countable nouns. 'Water' is an uncountable (mass) noun. The correct indefinite adjective for a small, positive quantity of an uncountable noun is 'a little'. Correct: 'A little water was left in the bottle...'

Q14 Ans: Error: 'more quicker' should be 'quicker'.

'Quicker' is already the comparative form of 'quick' (a one-syllable adjective). Adding 'more' before it creates a double comparison, which is always incorrect in standard English. Correct: 'The government's response was quicker than anticipated...'

Q15 Ans: Error: 'Which of these all' should be 'Which of these' or 'Which of all these'.

'These all' is an incorrect construction. In standard English, 'all' must precede the demonstrative: 'all these options' or simply 'these options'. 'Which of these options' or 'Which of all these options' are both correct. Placing 'all' after 'these' is non-standard.

CATEGORY 2 — FILL IN THE RIGHT WORD (Q16–Q30): Answer Key

Q16 Ans: (a) Either

'Either' refers to one of exactly two options — here, two routes. It takes a singular verb ('is'). 'Neither' would mean 'not one of the two', changing the meaning. 'Any' would be for three or more options. 'Each' emphasises individually and is used with plural groups.

Q17 Ans: (b) little

'Research' is an uncountable noun. For uncountable nouns: 'little' (negative connotation — almost none) and 'a little' (positive — some). The context ('noted' suggests a deficiency) calls for the negative. 'Few' and 'a few' apply only to countable nouns.

Q18 Ans: (b) What

'What' functions as an exclamatory adjective before 'a phenomenal comeback'. 'How' introduces exclamations about adjectives or adverbs alone (How remarkable!), not before a noun phrase with an article. 'Such' and 'So' would require restructuring the sentence.

Q19 Ans: (a) the most

'Difficult' is a multi-syllable adjective using 'most' for superlative. 'The most difficult problem' (superlative, out of all problems over years) is correct. 'The more' is comparative and would require a second item for comparison. 'Much' is not used for superlative formation.

Q20 Ans: (c) Every

'Every student' is the most natural expression for 'all students individually'. 'Each student' is also technically correct, but 'every' is the stronger and more idiomatic choice here. 'All' takes a plural noun and plural verb ('all students are'). 'Some' introduces partiality not present in the sentence.

Q21 Ans: (b) so remarkable a

When modifying a singular countable noun, both 'such a remarkable' (such + a + adj + noun) and 'so remarkable a' (so + adj + a + noun) are correct. The key is article placement. Option (a) 'such a remarkable' is equally correct — but option (b) tests awareness of the inverted construction with 'so'. Both (a) and (b) are acceptable; if forced to choose one 'most correct', (b) showcases advanced grammar.

Q22 Ans: (a) more

'Much' cannot modify an adjective — 'much consistent' is ungrammatical. 'Most' would be superlative (no comparison is implied). 'Many' modifies countable nouns. 'More consistent' correctly forms the comparative of the multi-syllable adjective 'consistent'.

Q23 Ans: (a) the only

'The only person' is the standard construction. 'Only the person' would mean 'none other than the person', which changes the meaning. 'An only' is used for unique children ('an only child'), not in this sense. 'The sole only' is redundant.

Q24 Ans: (b) better

Only two essays are being compared — use the comparative 'better'. 'More better' is a double comparative (error). 'Best' is superlative (for three or more). 'More well' is non-standard; 'better' is the correct comparative of 'well'.

Q25 Ans: (a) Several

'Several' is the correct indefinite adjective for 'attempts' (countable noun, plural, more than two). 'Much' is for uncountable nouns. 'A large amount of' and 'a good deal of' are typically used with uncountable nouns ('a large amount of money'), not with countable nouns like 'attempts'.

Q26 Ans: (a) little

'Evidence' is uncountable. 'Little evidence' (negative — barely any) suits a context where the petition was dismissed. 'A little' (positive — some) would imply insufficient but existing evidence, but the dismissal implies nearness to none. 'Few' and 'a few' apply to countable nouns only.

Q27 Ans: (a) Every

'Every member' uses the distributive adjective for a collective body individually. 'All members' (plural) would also work grammatically but changes the feel. 'Some' introduces partiality. 'Most' implies a majority. 'Every' is the most precise: each member, without exception.

Q28 Ans: (c) much more

'More' alone is grammatically acceptable, but 'much more' adds emphasis and is more precise stylistically. 'Far most' is ungrammatical — 'far' intensifies comparatives, not superlatives ('far better', not 'far best'). 'Most' alone would be superlative.

Q29 Ans: (a) Some

'Some news' is correct — 'news' is uncountable. 'Any' is typically used in questions or negative sentences. 'Many' requires a countable noun. 'Few' requires a countable noun. 'Some' correctly modifies the uncountable noun 'news' in a positive declarative sentence.

Q30 Ans: (a) Neither

Exactly two solutions are proposed — use 'neither' (not one of the two). 'None' is used for three or more. 'Both' means 'the two together', which would convey the opposite meaning. 'Each' would mean 'each individually is viable', which is also the opposite of what is intended.

CATEGORY 3 — CHOOSE THE CORRECT SENTENCE (Q31–Q45): Answer Key

Q31 Ans: (c) She is the more talented of the two sisters who auditioned for the lead role.

Two sisters → comparative degree required. 'More talented' is correct (multi-syllable adjective). 'The more talented' uses 'the' before comparative for a defined comparison between two. (a) lacks 'the' and wrongly drops the article. (b) uses 'most' for two (superlative error). (d) is ungrammatical restructuring.

Q32 Ans: (b) The infrastructure of Delhi is much more developed than that of Mumbai.

Parallel comparison: 'infrastructure of Delhi' must be compared to 'infrastructure of Mumbai' (= 'that of Mumbai'). (a) compares infrastructure to a city — illogical. (c) is technically acceptable but verbose; (b) is the most precise. (d) uses 'those' but infrastructure is singular — 'that' is correct.

Q33 Ans: (b) Its design has won several international awards for minimalism and innovation.

'Its' is the possessive adjective (no apostrophe). (a) uses 'It's' (= 'It is'), which is grammatically absurd here: 'It is design has won...'. (c) 'Its' does not exist in standard English. (d) omits the possessive marker entirely.

Q34 Ans: (a) The hungry were served first at the relief camp set up by the volunteers.

'The' + adjective (hungry) = noun phrase referring to a class of people; takes plural verb 'were'. (b) adds '-s' to the adjective — grammatically incorrect. (c) adds 'peoples', which is doubly incorrect. (d) omits 'the', making 'hungry' a dangling adjective without noun reference.

Q35 Ans: (c) He wore a gorgeous old handmade Italian leather jacket to the premiere.

DOSACOMP order: Opinion (gorgeous) → Age (old) → [Size skipped] → [Colour skipped] → [Origin — after material for handmade] → Origin (Italian) → Material (leather). 'Handmade' functions as a qualifier modifying origin-material sequence. (a) begins with 'a old' — article error + wrong order. (b) puts 'handmade' before 'old', disrupting age-before-qualifier sequence. (d) puts material (leather) first — violates DOSACOMP.

Q36 Ans: (b) Each of the managers has been informed about the restructuring plan.

'Each' is distributive and takes a singular verb. 'Each of the managers has...' is correct. (a) uses 'have' — plural verb error. (c) 'Each managers' — 'each' is followed by 'of + plural noun' or a singular noun alone ('each manager'). (d) 'Each of managers' omits the required 'the'.

Q37 Ans: (c) Her solution is as perfect as any submitted this year — arguably the best.

'Perfect' is an absolute adjective and cannot be compared directly. Only (c) avoids the comparison trap by using 'as perfect as' (implying sameness, not gradation). (a) 'more perfect' — absolute adjective error. (b) 'most perfect' — same error. (d) uses 'more perfectly crafted', which is technically about the crafting, not perfection itself — acceptable but less precise than (c) as a grammar-focus answer.

Q38 Ans: (a) What an extraordinary display of courage the firefighters showed!

'Extraordinary' begins with the vowel sound /ɛ/, so 'an' is required. (b) 'a extraordinary' — wrong article before vowel sound. (c) 'How' introduces exclamations with adjectives/adverbs alone — 'How extraordinary!' — not with a full noun phrase. (d) inverts subject-verb order as in a question, which is incorrect for exclamatory sentences.

Q39 Ans: (c) He is the cleverest student I have encountered in two decades of teaching.

One-syllable adjectives ('clever' → superlative: 'cleverest'). Actually 'clever' is two syllables, but follows the -er/-est rule. (a) 'most cleverest' — double superlative. (b) lacks 'the' before superlative — 'most clever' used incorrectly. (d) 'more cleverest' — double comparison. Correct form: 'the cleverest'.

Q40 Ans: (b) Few volunteers came forward, but they managed to complete the task.

'Volunteers' is countable and plural. 'Few' (without 'a') = negative (barely any) — fits the contrast 'but they managed'. (a) 'A little volunteers' — 'a little' is for uncountable nouns. (c) 'Little volunteers' — 'little' is also for uncountable nouns. (d) 'A few of volunteers' — requires the article 'the' between 'of' and the noun: 'a few of the volunteers'.

Q41 Ans: (a) Neither argument presented by the defence was found to be compelling.

'Neither' (distributive) → singular verb 'was'. (b) 'Neither of arguments' — missing 'the'. (c) 'arguments were' — plural verb violates distributive rule. (d) 'argument were' — singular noun + plural verb mismatch.

Q42 Ans: (a) Which book of these two did you find more informative and better-written?

'Which' is used when the choice is from a defined, limited set (here: two books). 'More informative' (comparative) is correct for a comparison of two. (b) uses 'most' for two — error. (c) 'What' implies an open or unlimited set — wrong when only two books are specified. (d) 'Whose' asks about ownership — not relevant here.

Q43 Ans: (a) The aged are cared for with great respect in most traditional societies.

'The aged' = the elderly, as a class. Plural verb 'are'. (b) 'ageds' — adjective-as-noun never takes '-s'. (c) 'aged peoples' — doubly redundant. (d) 'Aged' without 'the' has no noun reference — grammatically incomplete without a linking structure.

Q44 Ans: (b) This is the better decision of the two available to the board at this juncture.

Two options → comparative 'better'. 'The better of the two' is the correct construction. (a) 'the best of the two' — superlative for two: error. (c) 'the more better' — double comparison: error. (d) 'the most better' — another double comparison error.

Q45 Ans: (c) This information provided in the report is outdated and unreliable.

'Information' is an uncountable singular noun. 'This' (singular demonstrative) + singular verb 'is'. (a) 'Those informations' — 'information' has no plural form and 'those' requires countable plural. (b) 'These information are' — 'these' requires countable plural. (d) 'That informations' — 'informations' is not a valid English word.

CATEGORY 4 — ANALYSE, REWRITE & EXPLAIN (Q46–Q60): Answer Key

Q46 Ans: Corrected: 'She bought a beautiful small ancient leather bag at the antique market.'

Error: 'leather' (Material) appeared before 'beautiful' (Opinion), and 'ancient' (Age) was misplaced after 'small' (Size). DOSACOMP order: Opinion (beautiful) → Size (small) → Age (ancient) → Material (leather). The two transposed categories were Material (placed first) and Opinion (placed second instead of first).

Q47 Ans: Adjectives: 'more patient' (comparative, descriptive), 'more effective' (comparative, descriptive).

Construction: 'The + comparative, the + comparative' — a parallel correlative comparative structure.

This is the double comparative construction: 'The more X, the more Y', expressing proportional increase. Both adjectives are in the comparative degree. 'Patient' and 'effective' are descriptive adjectives modifying 'a leader' and 'the team' respectively in predicative position (via linking verbs 'is' and 'becomes').

Q48 Ans: Four errors found. Corrected paragraph: 'The committee made a unique decision: it declared that each of the members was given an equal but separate role. Neither proposal was accepted without revision. Its reasoning was flawed from the start.'

Error 1: 'most unique' → 'unique' (absolute adjective). Error 2: 'each of the members were' → 'was' (distributive 'each' takes singular verb). Error 3: 'Neither proposals were' → 'Neither proposal was' ('neither' = singular; singular noun + singular verb). Error 4: 'It's reasoning' → 'Its reasoning' (possessive adjective, no apostrophe).

Q49 Ans: (A) 'Few scientists believe...' = Almost no scientists believe it — strong scepticism, near-total rejection. (B) 'A few scientists believe...' = Some scientists believe it — a small but real group supports it, a positive note.

Original sentences using little vs. a little: (i) 'Little water remained in the reservoir by the end of the drought season.' (= Almost no water — severe shortage.) (ii) 'A little water remained in the reservoir, enough to sustain the village for a few more days.' (= Some water — a hopeful detail.) The presence or absence of 'a' completely reverses the connotation.

Q50 Ans: Corrected: 'The economy of Germany is stronger than that of France.'

The original sentence compares 'the economy of Germany' (a concept) with 'France' (a country) — an illogical, non-parallel comparison. 'That of France' substitutes for 'the economy of France', making the comparison parallel and grammatically correct. Both sides of the comparison must belong to the same grammatical and logical class.

Q51 Ans: Those (demonstrative, attributive) | three (numeral/cardinal, attributive) | young (descriptive, attributive) | Indian (proper/descriptive, attributive) | exhausted (descriptive, attributive — modifies 'crowd') | enthusiastic (descriptive, predicative — after 'remained').

'Those three young Indian athletes' demonstrates DOSACOMP order: Determiner (those) → Numeral (three) → Age (young) → Origin (Indian). 'Exhausted' is a participial adjective in attributive position modifying 'crowd'. 'Enthusiastic' is in predicative position following the linking verb 'remained'.

Q52 Ans: Two errors: (1) 'most brilliant of the two' should be 'more brilliant of the two' (superlative for two = error). (2) 'a more perfect answer' should be 'a perfect answer' (absolute adjective error).

Corrected: 'She is the more brilliant of the two finalists and gave a perfect answer...' Error 1 violates Rule 11: use comparative for two. Error 2 violates Rule 14: 'perfect' is absolute and cannot be graded. 'More perfect' implies degrees of perfection, which is logically incoherent.

Q53 Ans: 'Elder/eldest' are used exclusively for people within a family (siblings, children). 'Older/oldest' are used for general age comparisons — people, objects, or abstractions.

Examples: 'My elder brother has been living abroad for seven years.' (family relationship) | 'This is the oldest temple in the district.' (general age — not family). Key rule: 'elder' cannot be followed by 'than' in standard usage. WRONG: 'She is elder than me.' RIGHT: 'She is older than me.' For family seniority without 'than': 'She is the elder of the two sisters.'

Q54 Ans: 'The brave' is a noun phrase, not an adjective phrase, because 'the' + adjective has undergone nominalisation — a process where an adjective is converted to function as a noun (representing a class of people).

Evidence: (i) It occupies the subject position of the sentence (noun position). (ii) It cannot be replaced by 'the brave people' + adjective modification without change. (iii) It takes a plural verb ('shall inherit') because it represents a plural class. Rule: When 'the' + adjective refers to a class of people with no overt noun, it is treated as a plural noun and takes a plural verb. No '-s' may be added to the adjective.

Q55 Ans: Three errors: (1) 'less enthusiasm' — 'enthusiasm' is uncountable, so 'less' is correct here. Actually 'less' IS correct for uncountable. Re-examining: (1) 'more unique' — absolute adjective error. (2) 'the most complete of the pair' — 'pair' means two; use comparative: 'the more complete'. (3) 'less enthusiasm than him' — 'him' should be 'he' (pronoun case: subject ellipsis).

Corrected: 'She showed less enthusiasm than he [did], but her approach was unique and the more complete of the pair.' Error breakdown: 'more unique' violates absolute adjective rule (Rule 14). 'most complete of the pair' violates the two-vs-three rule (Rule 11) — a pair = two, so comparative is required. 'than him' uses objective case incorrectly where subject case ('than he') is required by ellipsis.

Q56 Ans: (A) 'The elegant solution proposed...' OR 'The proposed elegant solution...' — meaning is slightly different. (B) 'The tired child fell asleep.'

(A) Predic→Attributive: 'The solution proposed was elegant' → 'The proposed solution was elegant' shifts emphasis slightly (both refer to the same solution). Moving 'elegant' attributively ('the elegant solution proposed') changes focus. (B) 'The child who was tired' → 'The tired child' — meaning is fully preserved. In both cases, moving to attributive compresses the relative clause into a pre-nominal modifier.

Q57 Ans: Both 'a historic moment' and 'an historic moment' appear in edited prose, but 'a historic moment' is the standard in most modern varieties of English.

The rule: use 'an' before words with an initial vowel SOUND. 'Historic' in most accents begins with the /h/ consonant sound — so 'a historic' is standard. In some non-rhotic British and older formal usage, the /h/ was silent, making 'an historic' historically common. Modern style guides (AP, Chicago, Oxford) prefer 'a historic'. The governing rule: the article choice depends on pronunciation, not spelling.

Q58 Ans: The sentence contains no significant adjective error. 'Comprehensive', 'original', and 'more creative than the others' are correctly used.

'Each student must submit their own assignment' — 'their' as a singular, gender-neutral possessive pronoun is now widely accepted. 'Comprehensive' and 'original' are descriptive adjectives in predicative position (after linking verb 'should be'). 'More creative than the others' is a valid comparative, comparing one assignment to the others in the class (a defined set of three or more). No grammatical error is present in adjective use.

Q59 Ans: (A) 'Mumbai is the most populous city in India.' OR 'Mumbai is more populous than any other city in India.' (B) 'Diamond is harder than almost any other metal.' OR 'Diamond is the hardest of almost all metals.'

Rule: 'No other + noun + as + positive + as' = Superlative meaning. This can be converted: Positive → Superlative (No city is as populous as Mumbai → Mumbai is the most populous city). For comparative: 'more populous than any other city'. The word 'other' is crucial in comparative conversion — without 'other', the noun is compared to itself. For (B): 'Very few metals are as hard as diamond' → 'Diamond is harder than almost any other metal' or 'Diamond is among the hardest metals.'

Q60 Ans: Error: 'lesser' should be 'fewer'. 'Errors' is a countable noun; 'fewer' is the correct comparative adjective for countable nouns. 'Less' and 'lesser' are used with uncountable nouns.

Corrected: 'The further you go into the report, the fewer the errors you will find.' Additional note: 'further' (implying metaphorical or abstract progress into a document) is correctly used here over 'farther' (which implies physical distance). The construction 'The further...the fewer...' is a double comparative (parallel correlative). 'Lesser' means 'of lower rank or importance', not 'a smaller number', so it is doubly wrong here.

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