

# Mistakes in the use of adjectives

This grammar exercise tests your ability to use adjectives correctly.

1. She is ..... than her sister.

stronger  
more stronger

2. Bombay is ..... from Delhi  
than Agra.

further  
farther

3. You have ..... books.

much  
many

4. I have ..... work to do.

many  
much

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5. She is growing .....  
everyday.

more and more strong  
stronger and stronger

6. Let's go .....

somewhere quiet  
quiet somewhere

7. Tell me the ..... news.

last  
latest

8. I have ..... worries than  
you.

fewer  
less  
lesser

9. He wasted .....

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his all wealth

all his wealth

Here is a list of errors that ESL students often make in the use of adjectives.

Incorrect: She is more stronger than her sister.

Correct: She is stronger than her sister.

Avoid double comparatives. Adjectives of one syllable usually form their comparatives by adding -er to the positive. Longer adjectives take more.

Incorrect: Bombay is further from Delhi than Agra.

Correct: Bombay is farther from Delhi than Agra.

Further means 'additional'. Farther is used to talk about distance.

Incorrect: You have much books.

Correct: You have many books.

Incorrect: I have many work to do.

Correct: I have much work to do.

Use much with uncountable nouns. Use many with countable nouns.

Incorrect: She is growing strong and strong everyday.

Correct: She is growing stronger and stronger everyday.

The comparative form of the adjective is used in structures like these.

Incorrect: Let's go quiet somewhere.

Correct: Let's go somewhere quiet.

The adjective usually goes after expressions like somewhere.

Incorrect: I can't afford that a big car.

# Mistakes in the use of adjectives

Correct: I can't afford that big a car.

Note the pattern: that + adjective + a/an + noun

Incorrect: Tell me the last news.

Correct: Tell me the latest news.

Latest means 'the most recent'. Last means 'the previous one'.

Incorrect: I have less worries than you.

Correct: I have fewer worries than you.

Use less with uncountable nouns. Use fewer with countable nouns.

Incorrect: He wasted his all wealth.

Correct: He wasted all his wealth.

Quantifiers like all, both and half go before possessives.