

Unit 2 : Gradation of Adjectives and Adverbs

(Steigerungsformen)

1) Adjectives

There are three forms of an adjective:

	positive = Grundform	comparative = Steigerungsform	superlative = Höchstform
a.	hard	harder	the hardest
b.	happy	happier	the happiest
c.	simple	simpler	the simplest
d.	clever	cleverer	the cleverest
e.	narrow	narrower	the narrowest
f.	boring	more boring	the most boring
g.	careful	more careful	the most careful
h.	beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful

For the adjectives in examples a. - e. we use the endings **-er, -est**. We use this pattern with adjectives that

- have **one** syllable (a.)
- have **two** syllables and **-y** (b.)
- have **two** syllables and **-er, -le or -ow** (c.-e.)

For the adjectives in examples f. - h. we use **more and (the) most**. We use this pattern with adjectives that

- have an **-ing** (f.)
- have **two** syllables, but **no -y, -er, -le or -ow** (g.)
- have **three or more** syllables (h.)

There are also some **special forms**

positive = Grundform	comparative = Steigerungsform	superlative = Höchstform
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
little	less / smaller	the least / the smallest
much / many	more	the most

You must study them like vocabulary.

 **2.1 Exercises:**

1) → Fill in the missing forms.

positive = Grundform	comparative = Steigerungsform	superlative = Höchstform
	better	
quick		
		the largest
	more modern	

2) → Choose the correct form for every gap. Take care of the spelling.

How to get there?



The _____ (**quick**) way to get to Britain from Germany is by plane.

Most passengers usually arrive at Heathrow Airport or Gatwick Airport near London.

Heathrow is much _____ (**large**) than Gatwick. Heathrow is the

_____ (**big**) airport in Britain and the _____

(**busy**) international airport in the world.

London's _____ (**modern**) airport is Stansted.



The _____ (**good**) way to travel from Heathrow to Central London is by underground. There are buses into the Center, too. Of course, it is

_____ (**interesting**) to take the bus than the underground, but the

way takes much _____ (**long**).

2) Adverbs

There are three forms of an adverb.

	positive = Grundform	comparative = Steigerungsform	superlative = Höchstform
a.	happily	more happily	the most happily
b.	bravely	more bravely	the most bravely
c.	hard	harder	the hardest
d.	fast	faster	the fastest
e.	well	better	best

You can put adverbs ending in **-ly** in the comparative and superlative form as well. We use the pattern **more and (the) most** (a. - b.).

But with **irregular** adverbs (that have **one syllable**) we use **-er, -est** (c.- d.).

Or, there is a **completely different form** (e.)

3) Comparisons (= Vergleiche)

Adverbs can also be used in comparisons.

... genauso ... wie	<i>Susan sings as nicely as Sally. Tom works as hard as Theo.</i>
... nicht so ... wie	<i>Anna does not speak English as perfectly as Audrey. Jim did not arrive as early as John.</i>
... -er ... als	<i>Peter runs more quickly than Pete. Mat drives faster than Matthew.</i>

 **2.3 Exercises:**

1) → Fill in the missing forms.

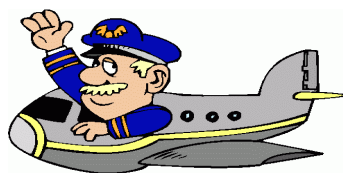
positive = Grundform	comparative = Steigerungsform	superlative = Höchstform
	better	
quickly		
		the earliest
	more beautifully	
happily		
fast		

2) → Translate the words in brackets and put them in the correct forms.

Being a pilot!

Michael Gould works as a pilot for a famous German Airline. He regularly flies his passenger plane between Munich and London Heathrow. This is what he said in an interview not so long ago:

- "I usually fly _____ (**vorsichtiger**) than other pilots. "
- "My passengers often smile _____ (**glücklicher**)
than others when we have landed _____ (**sicher**)."
- "I love my job every day! Flying a plane is what I can do _____
(**am besten**) ".
- "But I also like to get home as _____ (**schnell**) as
other people who work all day long! "
- "Well, my job is _____-paid (**gutbezahlt**), but sometimes I think
they could give me _____ (**mehr**)."



✍ TEST your language skills on Adjectives and Adverbs and their gradation patterns.

Test 2 - Circle the correct solutions



The morning after: French breakfast

Mrs Dunhill's class 7aD is doing an exchange program with a French school at the moment. The English group crossed the English Channel by ferry yesterday and now they are sitting around the breakfast table in their youth hostel. For some students the crossing was terrible.

Mrs Dunhill: I am **gladly / glad / gladder** that you are looking **healthy / healthily / more healthy** again, Daniel, the trip by ferry was **hard / hardly / harder** for you, right! Did you all sleep **best / well / good?**

Lizzy: I slept very **deep / deeply / more deep.** But then I woke up very **early / earlyly / earlier** his morning. I couldn't wait to drink my first 'café au lait', that tasty French milk coffee. And there was that **fantastically / fantastic / more fantastical** smell of croissants in the air!

Richie: Hihi, I think you sound **silly / sillyly / sillily** when you speak French! And anyway, those things might smell **nice / nicely / nicer** but they taste **terrible / terribly / terribler.** There is nothing as **delicious / more delicious / deliciously** as an English sausage for breakfast!

Mrs Dunhill: Well, French food is not **bad / badly / worse** than our food; it is not **goodly / gooder / better** than ours! It is simply different!

Unit 3: Position of Adjectives and Adverbs in the English sentence

Adjectives are put **in front of a noun** or **after the verb 'to be'**.

*This is a **fast** car*

*This car is (really / always) **fast**.*

Adverbs are put **at different positions** in a sentence. Generally, you can put adverbs and adverbials in **three positions**:

front- -mid- -end

But not all adverbs can be put **in all positions!**

The following gives you the major rules, not the details. For those, please use a dictionary.

Adverbs can be put in groups and each group takes special positions:

1) Adverbs of Manner (Art-/Weiseadverbien):

nicely, cleverly, beautifully, fast, slowly, easily...

→ end or mid position

end: *I read **slowly**. She drives **fast**. He sings **beautifully**.*

mid: *He **carefully** opened the door (also: He opened the door **carefully**.)*

2) Adverbs of Frequency (Häufigkeitsadverbien) and Indefinite Time (unbestimmte Zeitangaben):

never, always, often, already, ...

sometimes, usually, ...

→ mid or end / front position

mid: *Jane **often** plays the piano after lunch. I will **never** go there again. Dad is **always** at home.*

front / end: ***Sometimes** there is no homework for us. Have you returned the books **already**?*

3) Adverbs of Place (Ortsangaben) and Definite Time (bestimmte Zeitangaben):

(up) here, there, in town, at school, ...

yesterday, today, in 2015, ...

→ end or front position

end: *We saw a great movie **yesterday**. We want to play tennis **today**. The view was much better **up here**.*

front: ***Yesterday** we saw a great movie. **Today** we want to play tennis. **Up here** the view was much better.*

4) Adverbs of Degree (Gradadverben)

hardly, almost, as well as, completely, enough,

→ mid or end position

mid: *He **hardly** studied for his test. She **almost** got grade A in her test. They **completely** forgot to study.*

end: *I had **enough**!*

5) Adverbs of Opinion or Comment (Adverben der Meinung oder des Kommentars)

(un)fortunately, luckily, generally, surely, of course, ...

→all positions

front: ***Unfortunately**, we did not get any tickets for the match any more. **Luckily**, we finished class earlier. **Of course**, you will get good grades!*

mid: *You'll **surely** get good grades! You will **of course** get good grades.*

end: *You will get good grades, **of course**.*

If many adverbs / adverbials are used together in a sentence, you have to remember that rule for word order:

(Opinion) - Frequency - Manner - Place - Time

(O) FMPT

But

Subject - Predicate - Object

SPO

must be kept, too.

Examples:

*We **often** went swimming **happily** at the outdoor pool **this summer**.*

F M P T

***Not surprisingly**, the time began to go **very quickly** after that.*

O T T

***On hot days** I like swimming **in the lake** **very much**.*

T P M

(adverbials of time also in front position, modal adverbials also in end position)

 **TEST** your language skills on **Adjectives and Adverbs** and their **sentence positions**.



Tests 3

1) Translate into **English**. Keep the **English** word order.

- "Lieber Peter. ich muss dir schnell über dieses großartige Lieder-Festival am Brombachsee erzählen.

- Ich fuhr am Samstag mit meinen Eltern und mit meinem Hund dorthin.

- Als wir ankamen, mussten wir fast eine halbe Stunde warten. Dann durften wir hinein.

- Glücklicherweise (= Luckily) fanden wir sofort einen tollen Platz am Strand. Von dort hatten wir einen besseren Blick auf die Bühne als alle anderen Besucher."



2) Translate into **German**. Keep the **German** word order.

- "We were allowed to swim and enjoy the music at the same time. There was fantastic weather on that day and the rock bands played brilliantly, too.

- The concert finished late around midnight and all visitors tried to leave the place quickly.

- It took us quite a long time to get to our car and drive home safely.

- I won't forget our family day at the Brombachsee so quickly, because we all enjoyed an almost perfect day of sunshine, fresh water, picnic food and great music."

Unit 3: Position of Adjectives and Adverbs in the English sentence

3.1 Exercise

- 3) *I never eat croissants happily at home in the morning.*
- 4) *Yesterday, I had a very hard time on the ferry. / ... yesterday.*
- 5) *I felt strange in my stomach at the beginning of the cruise.*
- 6) *My guest family has treated me nicely so far.*
- 7) *Usually, my guest mum and dad (carefully) drive us to school carefully every day.*

Test 3

1)

- *“Dear Peter: I must quickly tell you about this brilliant song festival at the Brombachsee.*
- *I went there with my parents and my dog on / last Saturday.*
- *When we arrived, we had to wait for almost half an hour. Then we could / we allowed to go in.*
- *Luckily, we immediately found a great spot / place on the beach. (From there) We had a better view on the stage from there than all other visitors.”*

2)

2. *“Wir durften gleichzeitig schwimmen und die Musik genießen / der Musik zuhören. Es herrschte fantastisches Wetter an jenem Tag und auch die Rockbands spielten großartig.*
3. *Das Konzert endete (spät) gegen Mitternacht und alle Besucher versuchten, schnell den Ort zu verlassen.*
4. *Wir brauchten ziemlich lange, um zu unserem Auto zu gelangen / kommen und (dann) sicher nach Hause zu fahren.*
5. *Ich werde unseren Familientag am Brombachsee so schnell nicht vergessen, denn wir genossen alle einen fast perfekten Tag mit Sonnenschein, erfrischendem Wasser, Picnick-Snacks und großartiger Musik.*