



NDA/NA ENGLISH MASTERY SERIES

## MODULE 03

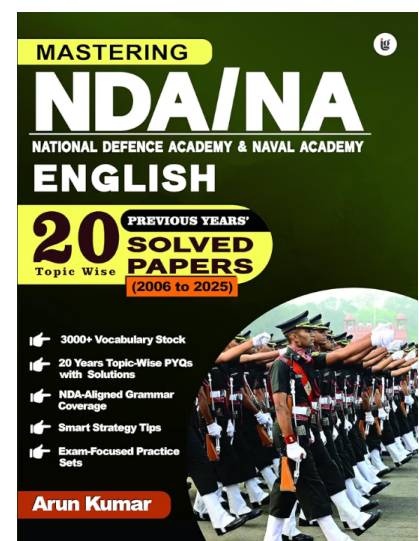
# Adjective

Adjective types, degree and usage patterns with exam-oriented practice.

From the book

## MASTERING NDA/NA ENGLISH

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Adjectives are words that describe or modify a noun, providing more information about its quality, quantity, or extent. They help make sentences more precise and vivid by answering questions like: *What kind?*, *How many?*, *How much?*, or *Which one?*. For example, in the sentence "The *beautiful* flower bloomed," *beautiful* is an adjective describing the noun *flower*.

### ➤ Types of Adjectives

Adjectives can be classified based on their function and meanings..

#### 1. Descriptive Adjectives (Qualitative Adjectives)

These describe the quality, size, shape, or color of a noun.

- Examples: *big, red, soft, intelligent*.
- Sentence: The *tall* tree provides shade.

#### 2. Quantitative Adjectives

These indicate the quantity or amount of a noun.

- Examples: *some, much, little, enough*.
- Sentence: She has *little* money left.

#### 3. Numeral Adjectives

These specify the number or order of nouns. They are further divided into:

- **Cardinal:** Indicate number (*one, two, three*).  
Example: I have *two* cats.
- **Ordinal:** Indicate order (*first, second, third*).  
Example: She won the *first* prize.

#### 4. Demonstrative Adjectives

These point out specific nouns.

- Examples: *this, that, these, those*.
- Sentence: *This* book is mine.

#### 5. Interrogative Adjectives

These are used in questions to modify a noun.

- Examples: *which, what, whose*.
- Sentence: *Which* dress do you like?

#### 6. Possessive Adjectives

These show ownership or possession.

- Examples: *my, your, his, her, its, our, their*.
- Sentence: *Her* bag is on the table.

#### 7. Distributive Adjectives

These refer to individual nouns within a group.

- Examples: *each, every, either, neither*.
- Sentence: *Each* student must submit the assignment.

### ➤ Rules for Using Adjectives

#### Rule 1: Position of Adjectives

Adjectives can be used in two positions:

- **Attributive Position:** This is when an adjective is placed directly before the noun it describes.  
*Example: A blue sky.*
- **Predicative Position:** This is when an adjective comes after a linking verb (like *is, seem, become*) and describes the subject.  
*Example: The sky is blue.*

#### Rule 2: Order of Adjectives

When multiple adjectives are used before a noun, they generally follow a fixed order:

Quantity → Quality → Size → Shape → Age → Color  
→ Origin → Material → Purpose → Noun

**Example:** Three beautiful large round old red French wooden dining tables.

Knowing this order improves clarity and helps in error spotting.

#### Rule 3: Degrees of Comparison

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison:

- **Positive Degree:** Describes a noun without any comparison.  
*Example: He is tall.*
- **Comparative Degree:** Used to compare two things.  
*Example: He is taller than his brother.*
- **Superlative Degree:** Used to compare more than two.  
*Example: He is the tallest in the class.*

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### Formation Rules:

- For one-syllable adjectives, add -er for the comparative and -est for the superlative.  
*Example:* big → bigger → biggest
- For adjectives ending in -y, change the y to i and add -er or -est.  
*Example:* happy → happier → happiest
- For most adjectives with two or more syllables, use "more" and "most".  
*Example:* beautiful → more beautiful → most beautiful
- Some adjectives are irregular and follow unique forms:  
good → better → best  
bad → worse → worst  
many → more → most

### Usage Notes:

- Always use "than" after a comparative adjective when comparing two entities.  
*Example:* She is taller than her sister.
- Use "the" before a superlative adjective.  
*Example:* He is the tallest boy in the group.

### Rule 4: Adjectives with Countable and Uncountable Nouns

- With countable nouns, use adjectives such as many, few, several.  
*Example:* Many students were present.
- With uncountable nouns, use adjectives like much, little, some.  
*Example:* There is little milk in the glass.

### Rule 5: Use of Few, A Few, Little, A Little

- "**Few**" is used with countable nouns to indicate an almost negligible quantity.  
*Example:* Few people came to the event.
- "**A few**" suggests some number and is used positively.  
*Example:* A few students participated.
- "**The few**" refers to all of the small number that exists.  
*Example:* The few friends he had supported him.
- "**Little**" is used with uncountable nouns to indicate almost none.  
*Example:* There is little hope left.
- "**A little**" implies some amount.  
*Example:* There is a little water in the bottle.
- "**The little**" means all of what exists.  
*Example:* The little money he had was wisely spent.

### Rule 6: Adjectives That Cannot Be Compared

Some adjectives represent absolute or complete qualities and should not be used in comparative or superlative forms.

*Examples include unique, perfect, dead, infinite.* Using forms like "more perfect" or "most unique" is grammatically incorrect.

### Rule 7: Avoid Double Comparatives and Superlatives

Do not use "more" or "most" with adjectives that already end in -er or -est.  
For instance, use "taller" instead of "more taller" and "fastest" instead of "most fastest".

#### Examples:

This book is more better than that one. ✗

This book is better than that one. ✓

### Rule 8: Adjective vs. Adverb

Adjectives describe nouns, whereas adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Incorrect: She sings beautiful.

Correct: She sings beautifully.

Correct: She is a beautiful singer.

### Rule 9: Use of "Such a"

The correct structure is "such a/an + adjective + noun". Do not use "a such".

*Correct:* She gave such a brilliant answer.

*Incorrect:* She gave a such brilliant answer.

### Rule 10: Compound Adjectives with Numbers Remain Singular

In compound adjectives using numbers and units of measure, the noun remains singular and a hyphen is used.

*Correct:* a five-minute break

*Incorrect:* a five-minutes break

### Rule 11: Adjectives That Require Complements or Prepositions

Some adjectives are incomplete without specific prepositions or phrases.

*Correct:* She is interested in art.

*Incorrect:* She is interested art.

*Examples include:* accustomed to, known for, capable of, responsible for, uncalled for.

### Rule 12: Parallel Structure in Comparisons

Comparisons must follow a parallel structure for clarity.

*Correct:* The salary offered is higher than that of the previous job.

*Incorrect:* The salary offered is higher than the previous job

### Rule 13: Avoid Redundant Comparatives and Superlatives

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Do not use both "more" or "most" along with adjectives already in comparative or superlative form.

*Correct:* She is taller than me.

*Incorrect:* She is more taller than me.

*Correct:* He is the fastest player.

*Incorrect:* He is the most fastest player.

### Rule 14: Correct Use of "Quite"

"Quite" should be placed carefully. The correct structures are:

- Quite a/an + adjective + noun
- Quite + adjective + noun

*Correct:* He gave quite a serious reply.

*Incorrect:* He gave a quite serious reply.

### Rule 15: Agreement of Article–Adjective–Noun

When an article like "a" or "an" is used before an adjective, ensure that the following noun is singular and countable.

*Correct:* She has a well-developed skill.

*Incorrect:* She has a well-developed skills.

### Rule 16: Appropriate Intensifiers with Adjectives

Use intensifiers properly. "Very" goes with base adjectives, while "much" is used with participles or comparative forms.

*Correct:* He made a very foolish mistake.

*Incorrect:* He made a much foolish mistake.

**Also remember:** "preferable" is followed by "to", not "than".

Ex: This option is much preferable to that one.

### Rule 17: Positive Degree Comparison – Use "As...As"

When showing equality between two things, use the structure "as + adjective + as".

*Correct:* This car is as fast as that one.

*Incorrect:* This car is as fast like that one.

### Rule 18: Irregular Plurals in Adjective Usage

Some nouns have the same singular and plural forms. Do not add "s" to such nouns.

*Correct:* Many deer were seen.

*Incorrect:* Many deers were seen.

*Correct:* Several sheep were grazing in the field.

*Incorrect:* Several sheeps were grazing in the field.

## ➤ Confusing Adjective Pairs

| ADJECTIVE PAIR              | MEANING & USAGE                                                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Later vs Latter             | <i>Later:</i> Comparative of late (time).<br><i>Latter:</i> Second of two mentioned items.   |
| Last vs Latest              | <i>Last:</i> Final one.<br><i>Latest:</i> Most recent.                                       |
| Elder vs Older              | <i>Elder:</i> For people (especially relatives).<br><i>Older:</i> For people or things.      |
| Childish vs Childlike       | <i>Childish:</i> Silly, immature (negative).<br><i>Childlike:</i> Innocent, pure (positive). |
| Official vs Officious       | <i>Official:</i> Authorized or formal.<br><i>Officious:</i> Meddling, interfering.           |
| Economic vs Economical      | <i>Economic:</i> Related to the economy.<br><i>Economical:</i> Thrifty, saving.              |
| Historic vs Historical      | <i>Historic:</i> Important in history.<br><i>Historical:</i> Related to history.             |
| Industrial vs Industrious   | <i>Industrial:</i> Related to industry.<br><i>Industrious:</i> Hard-working.                 |
| Classic vs Classical        | <i>Classic:</i> Typical or best of its kind.<br><i>Classical:</i> Related to ancient arts.   |
| Sensible vs Sensitive       | <i>Sensible:</i> Rational, wise.<br><i>Sensitive:</i> Emotional or delicate.                 |
| Successful vs Successive    | <i>Successful:</i> Having success.<br><i>Successive:</i> One after another.                  |
| Considerable vs Considerate | <i>Considerable:</i> Large in amount.<br><i>Considerate:</i> Thoughtful, kind.               |
| Imaginary vs Imaginative    | <i>Imaginary:</i> Not real.<br><i>Imaginative:</i> Creative, full of imagination.            |

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| ADJECTIVE PAIR           | MEANING & USAGE                                                                                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beneficent vs Beneficial | <i>Beneficent</i> : Generous, doing good.<br><i>Beneficial</i> : Helpful, useful.                         |
| Credible vs Credulous    | <i>Credible</i> : Believable.<br><i>Credulous</i> : Gullible, too ready to believe.                       |
| Popular vs Populous      | <i>Popular</i> : Liked by many.<br><i>Populous</i> : Having a large population.                           |
| Envious vs Jealous       | <i>Envious</i> : Wishing you had what someone else has.<br><i>Jealous</i> : Fear of losing what you have. |
| Luxurious vs Luxuriant   | <i>Luxurious</i> : Rich, comfortable.<br><i>Luxuriant</i> : Growing thickly.                              |
| Political vs Politic     | <i>Political</i> : Related to politics.<br><i>Politic</i> : Prudent, wise.                                |

## Practice Set: Adjective

**Directions:** Each sentence contains an error/ errors related to the use of adjectives or modifiers, including incorrect comparative or superlative forms, improper adjective order, adjective-adverb confusion, or mismatch with collective nouns. Identify the incorrect adjective or related structure and provide the correct form. Pay special attention to adjective sequencing, over-comparison (e.g., more taller), and collective noun agreement.

### Practice Set 1

- Despite his extensive knowledge and more superior communication skills, he failed to convince the panel during the final round of the interview.
- The school provides a three-years intensive training program that prepares students for both academic and military excellence.
- She wore a beautiful red silk long gown that was admired by everyone at the gala event.
- Neither of the two roads is more safer during heavy rainfall, so the villagers avoid both after dark.
- Of all the contestants in the quiz competition, Rahul was the most fastest to respond to every question without hesitation.
- The speaker delivered an extremely informative and well-researched lecture, though it became increasingly bored toward the end.
- She is the better of the three sisters in terms of academic achievements..
- Each and every applicant are expected to submit a detailed two-page resume along with three references.
- The novel was written in such a complicated and lengthy language that even the most intellectual readers struggled to understand it.
- Being the eldest of the siblings, he was given more responsibilities and treated different than the others.
- She is quite an intelligent, soft-spoken, and impressing teacher, much loved by both students and colleagues.
- Among all contemporary authors, he is considered one of the most exceptionally unique approaches to storytelling.
- The player's unexpected performance was far more good than anyone could have predicted after his injury.
- His handwriting is so worse that no one could read it.
- The new policy proved to be the more effective one among all those introduced in the past two years.
- They adopted a friendly-looking stray dog with a brown furry coat and bright curious eyes from the shelter last week.
- He gets used to changes very frequently than others do.
- The less intelligent of the three brothers surprisingly topped the exam.
- No less than fifty candidates has applied for the post of lecturer.
- The committee members agreed that the second proposal was preferable than the original one submitted last month.
- The girl displayed a well-developed artistic and imaginative skills that impressed the visiting faculty.
- The water in the pond looked strangely clean, considering the recent rainfall and nearby construction work.
- That was the most final warning we could give him.
- During the conference, the speaker made several generalised and offensive remarks that were entirely uncalled.
- He was chosen as the more suitable candidate among them due to his vast experience, confident personality, and excellent leadership abilities.

### Practice Set 2

- The teacher was surprised (a) / to see such an unique solution (b) / from a student who usually (c) / avoids participating in discussions. (d)
- The later (a) / part of the movie(b) / was more interesting (c) / No error. (d)
- These kind of confusing instructions (a) / not only delay the project (b) / but also create frustration (c) / among the team members. (d)
- The later chapters of this book are more interesting than the earlier ones.

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5. Each of the candidates (a) / were given a carefully written (b) / and detailed feedback report (c) / at the end of the assessment. (d)
6. Among all the players (a) / in the current team, he is (b) / by far the better fielder (c) / when it comes to agility. (d)
7. The manager made (a) / much complaints (b) / about the employees' (c) / careless attitude during the meeting. (d)
8. A five minutes break (a) / was granted to the participants (b) / before the next round (c) / of the competition began. (d)
9. It is one of (a) / the best movie (b) / I have ever watched. (c) / No error. (d)
10. I met a tall, young, American (a) / and extremely confident woman (b) / who spoke eloquently (c) / about global issues. (d)
11. She is comparatively more efficient than her colleague.
12. She was wearing (a) / a blue beautiful dress (b) / that complemented (c) / her eyes perfectly. (d)
13. The eldest of the two brothers (a) / decided to take over (b) / the responsibility of managing (c) / their father's business. (d)
14. The two brothers are equally best in sports.
15. No other poem (a) / in the collection is as moving (b) / or beautifully written (c) / like this one. (d)
16. Neither the lawyer nor the witnesses (a) / was able to confirm (b) / the exact timing (c) / of the incident. (d)
17. The room looked more (a) / bright and spacious (b) / after it was (c) / painted in lighter shades. (d)
18. It is bitter cold today, so we have to change our plan of going out today.
19. This is the only (a) / medical report among all (b) / that seems authentic (c) / and professionally prepared. (d)
20. Less people turned up for the seminar than expected.
21. That was the least (a) / smartest response (b) / you could have given (c) / in such a situation. (d)
22. The sight of (a) / so many deers running (b) / across the field was (c) / both majestic and rare. (d)
23. The climate of Rachi is better than Patna.
24. Her remarks were (a) / more hurtful than (b) / anyone had anticipated (c) / during the discussion. (d)
25. The manager gave (a) / a quite serious look (b) / when he found (c) / the file was missing. (d)

## Answer Key

### Practice Set 1

1. Error: *more superior*  
Explanation: "Superior" is already a comparative adjective; "more" is redundant.
2. Error: *three-years*  
Explanation: When used as a compound adjective before a noun, it should be singular: "three-year".
3. Error: *red silk long gown*  
Explanation: Incorrect adjective order; size and shape (long) should come before color and material.
4. Error: *more safer*  
Explanation: "Safer" is already comparative; "more" is redundant.
5. Error: *most fastest*  
Explanation: "Fastest" is superlative; "most" is unnecessary.
6. Error: *bored*  
Explanation: "Bored" is used for people; the lecture should be described as "boring".
7. Error: *better*  
Explanation: When comparing more than two, we must use the superlative degree.
8. Error: *are*  
Explanation: "Each and every" takes singular verb ("is").
9. No error
10. Error: *treated different*  
Explanation: After "treated," an adverb is needed — "differently," not the adjective "different".
11. Error: *impressing*  
Explanation: Use the adjective "impressive" to describe a teacher, not the present participle.
12. Error: *most exceptionally unique*  
Explanation: The adjective "unique" means *one of a kind* and is absolute — it cannot be compared or intensified.
13. Error: *more good*  
Explanation: Use "better" instead of "more good".
14. Error: *so worse that*  
Explanation: "So worse" is incorrect; use "so bad"
15. Error: *the more effective one*  
Explanation: Use "the most effective one" when comparing more than two.
16. No error
17. Error: *very frequently*  
Explanation: more frequently would be correct in this context.
18. Error: *less intelligent*  
Explanation: Among three → use superlative: "the least intelligent..."

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19. Error: *has*  
Explanation: The phrase "No less than" means "not fewer than" and the verb must agree with the plural noun candidates.
20. Error: *much preferable than*  
Explanation: Use "preferable to", not "preferable than".
21. Error: *a well-developed artistic and imaginative skills*  
Explanation: "Skills" is plural, so article and structure should match: "well-developed artistic and imaginative skills" (remove "a").
22. No error
23. Error: *most final*  
Explanation: "Final" means last — cannot be intensified. Correct: *"That was the final warning..."*
24. Error: *generalised and offensive remarks that were entirely uncalled*  
Explanation: Should be "uncalled for" — complete phrasal adjective.
25. Error: *more suitable*  
Explanation: When comparing more than two options use "the most suitable", not "more suitable".
8. Error: *A five minutes break*  
Explanation: Compound adjectives before a noun are singular → *a five-minute break*.
9. Error: *movie*  
Explanation: one of the best" → plural noun (*movies*).
10. ✓ No error.
11. Error: "Comparatively" and "more"  
Explanation: "Comparatively" and "more" should not be used together.  
Correct: She is comparatively efficient than her colleague.
12. Error: *a blue beautiful dress*  
Explanation: Correct adjective order: opinion → size → age → shape → color → origin → material → purpose → noun → *a beautiful blue dress*.
13. Error: *The eldest of the two brothers*  
Explanation: Use *elder* for comparing two; *eldest* is for more than two → *The elder of the two*.
14. Correct: The two brothers are equally good in sports.
15. Error: *like this one*  
Explanation: Use *as* in comparisons of quality → *as this one*.
16. Error: *was able to confirm*  
Explanation: "Neither...nor" takes the verb according to the subject nearest to it ("witnesses") → *were able to confirm*.

### Practice Set 2

1. Error: *such an unique solution*  
Explanation: Use "a" before words that begin with a consonant sound. "Unique" starts with a "yu" sound → *a unique solution*.
2. Error: *Later--Latter*  
Explanation: 'Later' is incorrect → use 'latter' when referring to two parts
3. Error: *These kind of confusing instructions*  
Explanation: "Kind" is singular; should agree with *these* → *These kinds of confusing instructions*.
4. Error: *later*  
Explanation: Latter refers to the second of two things or the last part of something. Later refers to time.
5. Error: *Each of the candidates were*  
Explanation: "Each" is singular → *Each...was given*.
6. Error: *by far the better fielder*  
Explanation: Use superlative after "by far" when comparing among many → *the best fielder*.
7. Error: *much complaints*  
Explanation: "Complaints" is countable → use *many complaints*.
17. Error: *more bright and spacious*  
Explanation: Use *brighter and more spacious*
18. Error: *bitter cold*  
Explanation: Replace 'bitter cold' with "bitterly cold"
19. ✓ No error.
20. "People" is countable; should use "few"
21. Error: *least smartest response*  
Explanation: Avoid double superlative → use *least smart* or *not the smartest*.
22. Error: *so many deers*  
Explanation: "Deer" is the same in singular and plural → *so many deer*.
23. Error: *than Patna*  
Explanation: Use *that of Patna*
24. ✓ No error.
25. Error: *a quite serious look*  
Explanation: Adverb "quite" should come before article → *quite a serious look*.