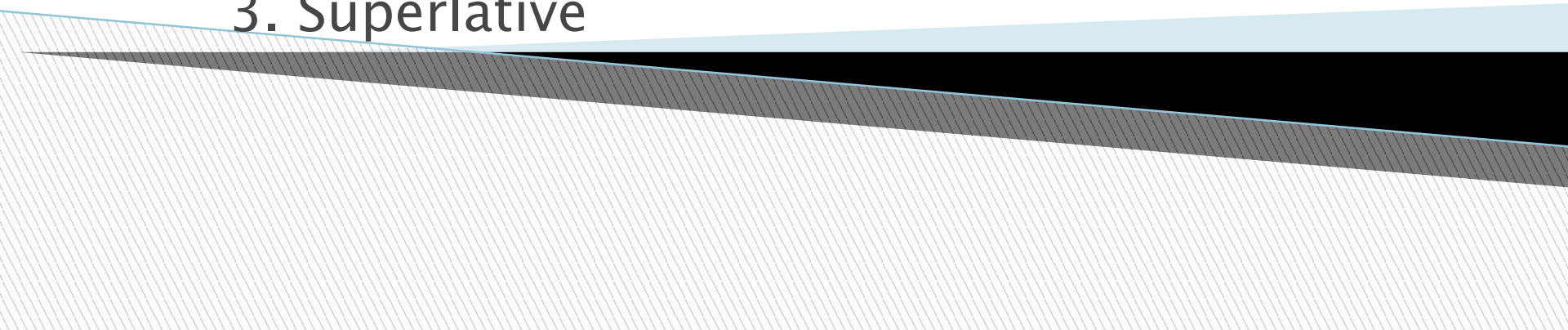


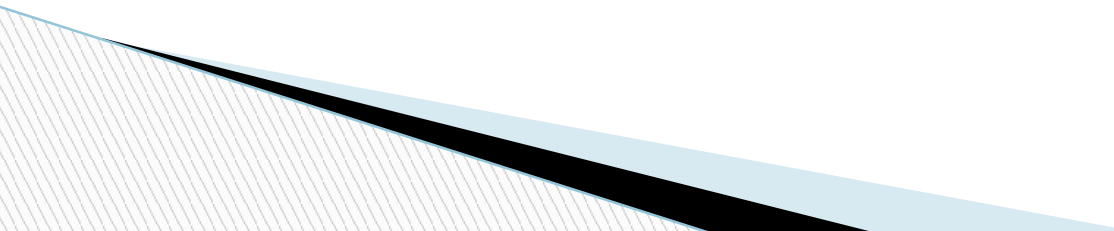
DEGREES OF COMPARISON SEMESTER-II

A.RAJESWARI
LECTURER IN ENGLISH
GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE
RAVULAPALEM

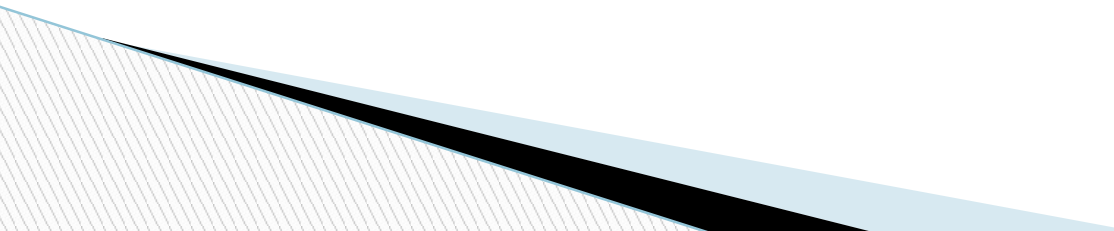
DEGREES OF COMPARISON

- ❖ Refer to adjectives being written in different forms to compare nouns which describe persons, places or things.
 - ❖ Adjectives change their form to show comparison
 - ❖ Degrees of comparison – 3
 1. Positive
 2. Comparative
 3. Superlative
- 

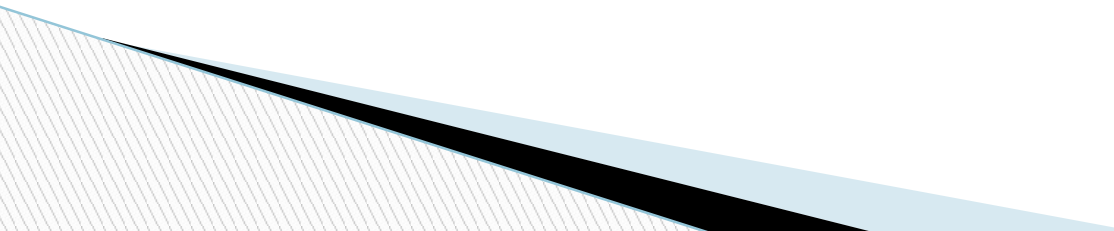
Positive Degree

- The positive degree of an adjective is the adjective in its simple form.
 - It denotes the mere existence of some quality of what we speak about.
 - It is used when no comparison is made.
 - Ex: Sita is a **tall** girl.
 - In the above sentence, the adjective tall tells us about Sita's height. It does not say how high Sita is.
- 

Comparative Degree

- It is higher degree of the quality than the positive degree
 - It is used when we are comparing two things
 - Ex: Sita is taller than Geeta
 - The heights of Sita and Geeta are compared here
 - So the adjective *taller* is said to be in comparative degree
 - It is usually followed by *than*
- 

Superlative Degree

- It denotes the highest degree of the quality
 - More than comparative and positive
 - Used to compare more than two things/persons.
 - Ex: Sita is the tallest girl in the group.
- 

Formation of comparative and superlative degrees

- Most adjectives with one syllable, and some more than one, form the comparative by adding **er** and the superlative by adding *est* to the positive

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
Sweet	sweeter	sweetest
Long	longer	longest
Bold	bolder	boldest
Kind	kinder	kindest

Formation of comparative and superlative degrees

- When the positive ends in “e”, only “r” and “st” are added.

□ <u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
□ Brave	braver	bravest
□ Fine	finer	finest
□ Noble	nobler	noblest
□ Wise	wiser	wisest

Formation of comparative and superlative degrees

- When the positive ends in “y” , preceded by a consonant, the “y” is changed into “i” before adding “er” and “est”
- **Positive** **Comparative** **Superlative**
- Happy happier happiest
- Merry merrier merriest
- Wealthy wealthier wealthiest
- Heavy heavier heaviest

Formation of comparative and superlative degrees

- When the positive is a word of one syllable ends in a single consonant, preceded by a short vowel, this consonant is doubled before adding “er” and “est”

□ <u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
□ Red	redder	reddest
□ Big	bigger	biggest
□ Hot	hotter	hottest
□ Sad	sadder	saddest

Formation of comparative and superlative degrees

- Adjectives of more than two syllables form the comparative and superlative by putting **more** and **most** before the positive.
- **Positive** **Comparative** **Superlative**
- Beautiful more beautiful most beautiful
- Difficult more difficult most difficult
- Intelligent more intelligent most intelligent
- Courageous more courageous most courageous

Formation of comparative and superlative degrees

- Two syllables ending in **ful** (e.g. useful), **less** (e.g. meaningless) and **ed** (e.g. surprised) and many others (e.g. modern, recent, foolish etc.,) take **more** and **most**.

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
-----------------	--------------------	--------------------

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Recent | more recent | most recent |
| Foolish | more foolish | most foolish |
| Useful | more useful | most useful |

Irregular comparisons

- The comparative and superlative degrees of some adjectives are not formed from their positive degree. The following are a few examples of such words

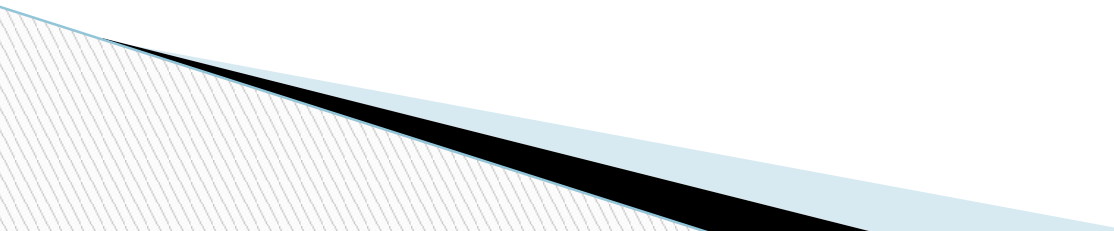
- **Positive** **Comparative** **Superlative**

- Good, well better best
- Bad, evil, ill worse worst
- Little less, lesser least
- Much more most(quantity)
- Many more most(number)

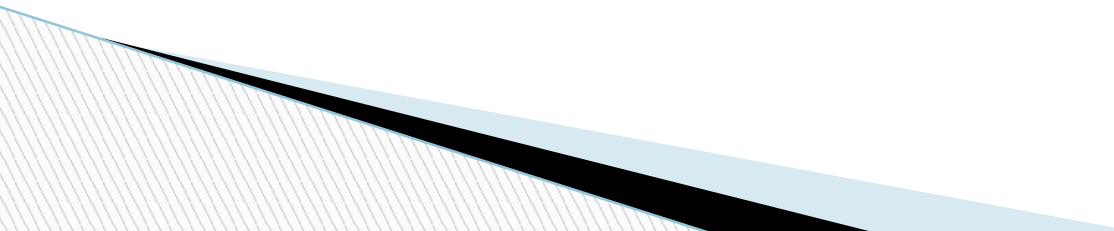
Contd...

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
□ Late	later, latter	latest
□ Old	older, elder	oldest, eldest
□ Far	farther	farthest
□ In	inner	innermost, inmost
□ Out	outer	uttermost, utmost

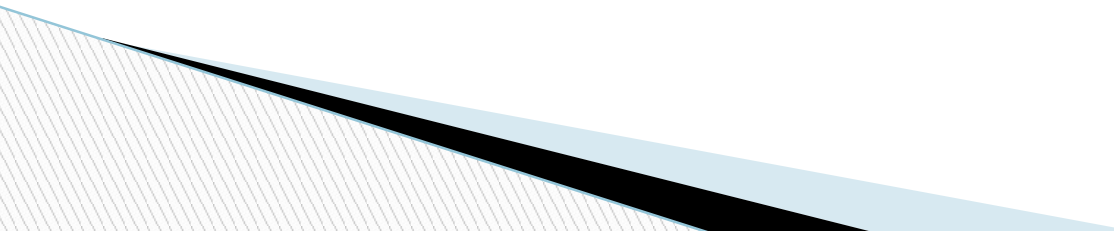
Interchange of degrees of comparison

- Possible to change the degrees of comparison of an adjective in a sentence, without changing the meaning of the sentence
 - Examples:
 - Ravi is the most courageous boy.
 - Ravi is more courageous than any other boy.
 - No other boy is as courageous as Ravi.
- 

Pattern 1

- ❑ Ravi is the **tallest** boy in the class (sentence given and you are asked to change it into comparative or positive degree)
 - ❑ Identify the adjective and its degree
 - ❑ Tallest (superlative)
 - ❑ Raju is taller than any other boy in the class. (Comp)
 - ❑ No other boy in the class is as tall as Raju. (Positive)
- 

Pattern -II

- Raju is one of the tallest boys in the group.
 - Raju is taller than many other boys in the group.
 - Few other boys in the group are as tall as Raju.
- 

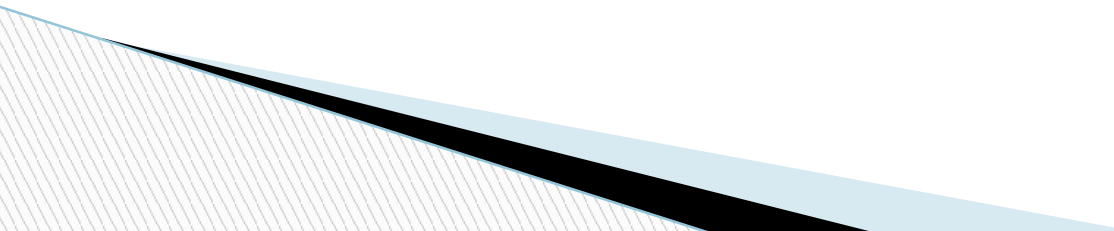
Difference between Pattern-1 and Pattern-2

- In pattern -1 Raju is the only tallest boy and no other boy is taller than Raju.
- So the positive begins with no other.....
- In such cases comparative degree is
- Raju is taller than **any other boy** in the group
- In Pattern – II, there are a few other tall boys in the class and Raju is one among them. So, it goes as Raju is one of the
- In such cases the positive sentence begins with Few other boys.....are as tall as ____
- The comparative sentence
- Raju is **taller** than **many other boys** in the group.

Pattern - III

- In patterns 3 and 4, comparison is made only between two things or persons and hence, there won't be superlative degree.
- Examples of Pattern - III
- **Raju is taller than Ravi** (Comparative Degree)
- Here, the height of Raju and Ravi is compared
- Obviously, one is in higher degree than the other.
- The positive degree of this sentence starts with Ravi...
- **Ravi is not as tall as Raju(positive degree)**

Pattern - IV

- In pattern 4 both the persons/things being compared are at the same degree or at the same level
 - **Examples**
 - 1. Raju is not taller than Ravi.(comparative Degree)
 - This means that both Raju and Ravi are of the same height
 - 2.Ravi is as tall as Raju.
- 

Exercise

- Rewrite the following sentences as directed
 - 1. Neela is taller than Sheela (Comparative Degree)
 - 2. Hari is more intelligent than any other boy in the class (Superlative Degree & Positive Degree)
 - 3. Iceland is cooler than many other countries. (Positive and Comparative Degrees)
 - 4. The elephant is as tall as the giraffe. (comparative degree)
- 

Some points to remember

1. The comparative *er* is not used when we compare two qualities in the same person
 - ❖ In such cases *more* is used
 - ❖ Example: Rama is more brave than prudent
2. Certain comparatives are used as positives. They lost their comparative meaning now.
 - ❖ *Former, latter, elder, upper, inner, outer, utter*
3. Certain comparatives borrowed from Latin have no positive or superlative degree
 - ❖ *Interior, exterior, ulterior, major, minor*

Some points.....(contd)

4. The comparative degree is generally followed by *than*, but some comparative adjectives take to after them.

▣ *Examples: inferior, superior, prior, anterior, posterior, senior, junior*

5. Adjectives expressing qualities that do not admit of different degrees cannot, strictly speaking, be compared.

▣ *Examples: Square, round, perfect, eternal, universal, unique*



A top-down view of a white rectangular card with the words "Thank You" written in a purple, cursive script. The card is placed on a light-colored, veined marble surface. To the left of the card is a bouquet of small, light purple flowers with green foliage. To the right of the card lies a black pen with a white band featuring black polka dots. Further to the right is a small, square gift wrapped in white paper with a grey polka-dot pattern, tied with a red and white striped string. A spool of this same string is visible in the top right corner.

Thank
you