Study Guide

Adjectives
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**Adjectives - C**Adjectives modify nouns or pronouns by answering questions such as how many, what kind, or which one. In the sentence "We have lived in five states," the word "five" describes the word "states." Five is the adjective describing states, the noun.

Adjectives can be used to compare people or things. There are three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative.

A positive adjective describes one noun. Examples: strong, careful, happy, generous

A comparative adjective compares two nouns. Examples: stronger, more careful, happier, more generous

A superlative adjective compare more than two nouns. Examples: strongest, most careful, happiest, most generous.

Most one syllable adjectives form their comparative and superlative degrees by adding "er" and "est" to the end of the word.
Some two-syllable adjectives form their comparative and superlative degrees by adding "er" and "est," while others use "more" and "most."
Adjectives of more than two syllables form their comparative and superlative degrees by using "more" and "most" or "less" and "least."

It is important for students to use adjectives in their positive and comparative forms.
Using a newspaper or magazine article of interest to the student, ask the student to circle the nouns in the sentence and then underline the adjectives that modify (describe) them.

To review and reinforce adjectives used to compare, have students set up a chart of comparative adjectives.
For example:

positive: dirty
comparative: dirtier
superlative: dirtiest
Now have the students use these adjectives in sentences of their own.