Unit 2: Gradation of Adjectives and Adverbs
(Steigerungsformen)

1) **Adjectives**

There are three forms of an adjective:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>positive</strong> = Grundform</th>
<th><strong>comparative</strong> = Steigerungsform</th>
<th><strong>superlative</strong> = Höchstform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. hard</td>
<td>harder</td>
<td>the hardest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. happy</td>
<td>happier</td>
<td>the happiest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. simple</td>
<td>simpler</td>
<td>the simplest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. clever</td>
<td>cleverer</td>
<td>the cleverest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. narrow</td>
<td>narrower</td>
<td>the narrowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. boring</td>
<td>more boring</td>
<td>the most boring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. careful</td>
<td>more careful</td>
<td>the most careful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. beautiful</td>
<td>more beautiful</td>
<td>the most beautiful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

<table>
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<th><strong>superlative</strong> = Höchstform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>the worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>little</td>
<td>less / smaller</td>
<td>the least / the smallest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much / many</td>
<td>more</td>
<td>the most</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must study them like vocabulary.
2.1 Exercises:

1) → Fill in the missing forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>positive  = Grundform</th>
<th>comparative  = Steigerungsform</th>
<th>superlative  = Höchstform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick</td>
<td></td>
<td>the largest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more modern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>superlative = Höchstform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. happily</td>
<td>more happily</td>
<td>the most happily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. bravely</td>
<td>more bravely</td>
<td>the most bravely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. hard</td>
<td>harder</td>
<td>the hardest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. fast</td>
<td>faster</td>
<td>the fastest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. well</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>best</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*  
Susan sings **as nicely** as Sally.  
Tom works **as hard** as Theo.

... *nicht so* ... *wie*  
Anna does **not** speak English **as perfectly** as Audrey.  
Jim did **not** arrive **as early** as John.

... *-er* ... *als*  
Peter runs **more quickly than** Pete.  
Mat drives **faster than** Matthew.
### 2.3 Exercises:

1) → Fill in the missing forms.

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<th><strong>positive</strong> = Grundform</th>
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<th><strong>superlative</strong> = Höchstform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quickly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the earliest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more beautifully</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>happily</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 / earlily / earlier this 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 specials 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, ...
We saw a great movie yesterday. We want to play tennis today. The view was much better up here.

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, ....

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

I had enough!

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

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

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

You’ll surely get good grades! You will of course get good grades.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Manner</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(O)</td>
<td>FMPT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Predicate</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SPO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)
3.1 Exercise:

→ Arrange these parts to form a correct English sentence. Think of the positions of adverbs. Write your answers on the lines.

What the English pupils said about their trip and stay in France:

1) Never # I # at home # eat # happily # croissants # in the morning # .

2) a very hard time # yesterday # on the ferry # I # had # .

3) in my stomach # felt # at the beginning of the cruise # strange # I # .

4) has treated # my guest family # me # so far # nicely # .

5) usually # drive # to school # carefully # us # my guest mum and dad # every day # .

Your answers:

“________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________”
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.”
Solutions

Unit 2: Gradation of Adjectives and Adverbs

Exercise 1)

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>better</td>
<td>the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quick</td>
<td>quicker</td>
<td>the quickest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large</td>
<td>larger</td>
<td>the largest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modern</td>
<td>more modern</td>
<td>the most modern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 2)

... quickest larger biggest busiest most modern
  best more interesting longer

Exercise 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>positive</th>
<th>comparative</th>
<th>superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>well</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quickly</td>
<td>more quickly</td>
<td>the most quickly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early</td>
<td>earlier</td>
<td>the earliest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beautifully</td>
<td>more beautifully</td>
<td>the most beautifully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>happily</td>
<td>more happily</td>
<td>the most happily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fast</td>
<td>faster</td>
<td>the fastest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 2)

- ... more carefully
- ... more happily ... safely
- ... best
- ... fast / quickly
- ... well- ... more

Test 2

Mrs Dunhill: ... glad healthy hard well
Lizzy: ... deeply early fantastic
Richie: ... silly nice terrible delicious
Mrs Dunhill: ... worse better
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)  
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.*