



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Adjectives and Adverbs 3 by K S Sandhu

A Visit to Songklan Elephant Sanctuary

Last weekend, my family and I visited Songklan Elephant Sanctuary in southern Thailand. It is smaller than most elephant farms in the area because it only has four working elephants. The largest farm nearby has 30 elephants, so Songklan feels much quieter and more peaceful.

When we arrived, our guide introduced the elephants one by one. First, there was Mao-Mao, the heaviest and oldest elephant. He came from Chiang Rai in the north, so he had travelled further than any of the others to reach Songklan. Mao-Mao moved slowly and carefully, but he was very strong. He lifted heavy logs more easily than the younger ones.

Next came Changra, who is younger than Mao-Mao but greedier than all the rest. Changra loves his job and works harder than the others. He lifts wood more enthusiastically and never complains. However, at feeding time, he eats more quickly and more than everyone else! The guide laughed and said, "Changra is the best worker, but also the greediest elephant here."

Then we met Selma, who is lazier every year. Although she is only eighteen, she is older than Tanan and works worse than the others. Selma stands in the shade most of the day, looking more relaxed than busy. "She gets lazier and lazier," the guide explained. "She is the worst worker, but we love her anyway."

Finally, there was Tanan, the youngest elephant and also the friendliest. She approached us more eagerly than the others, gently touching our hands with her trunk. Tanan loves people and plays more playfully than her friends. She is more affectionate than Mao-Mao or Selma, and she learns new things faster.

After meeting them, we watched the elephants bathe in the river. Changra splashed water more energetically than Tanan, but Tanan swam more gracefully. Mao-Mao stayed in the deeper part longer because he felt more comfortable there. Selma, of course, just stood still and looked less interested.

Later, we fed them bananas. Changra pushed harder to get more fruit, while Tanan shared more kindly. The guide said the sanctuary focuses on ethical treatment, so the elephants work less heavily than in the past and live more happily.

Visiting Songklan was an exhilarating experience – one of the most memorable days of my life. The elephants were all different, but together they made the place more special than any big farm could. I learned that being smaller doesn't mean being less wonderful.

Questions:

Question 1: Which elephant is the heaviest?

Question 2: Why does the writer say Songklan feels quieter and more peaceful than other elephant farms?

Question 3: Who works harder, Changra or Selma?

Question 4: Which elephant is described as the friendliest and the youngest?

Question 5: How does Tanan behave differently from the other elephants when people come near?

Answers:

Answer 1: Mao-Mao is the heaviest elephant.

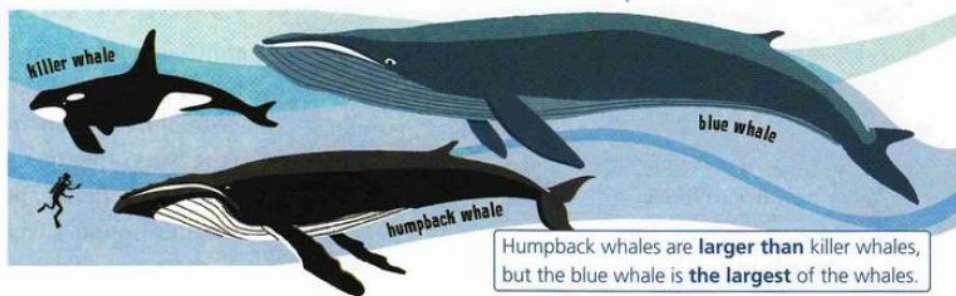
Answer 2: Songklan feels quieter and more peaceful because it is smaller than most elephant farms in the area and only has four elephants (while the largest nearby farm has 30).

Answer 3: Changra works harder than Selma.

Answer 4: Tanan is described as the friendliest and the youngest elephant.

Answer 5: Tanan approaches people more eagerly than the others and gently touches their hands with her trunk (she is more affectionate and loves people).

21 Comparison of adjectives



1 Comparative and superlative forms

	COMPARATIVE (two things)	SUPERLATIVE (more than two things)
adjectives with one syllable ¹	add -(e)r : large → larger small → smaller young → younger fast → faster	add -(e)st: large → the largest small → the smallest young → the youngest fast → the fastest
adjectives with two or more syllables ²	use more/less + adjective: useful → more/less useful expensive → more/less expensive interesting → more/less interesting	use the most/the least + adjective: useful → the most/least useful expensive → the most/least expensive interesting → the most/least interesting
irregular adjectives	bad → worse good → better far → farther/further well (= healthy) → better	bad → the worst good → the best far → the farthest/furthest

¹ Sometimes the spelling changes: dry → drier/the driest, big → bigger/the biggest (see page 351)

² Adjectives with two syllables where the second syllable is unstressed (often ending in -y, -ly, -ow, or -l) can sometimes form the comparative and superlative in the same way as one-syllable adjectives: friendly → friendlier/the friendliest, gentle → gentler/the gentlest, funny → funnier/the funniest

2 Comparative adjectives

We use comparative adjectives to compare two things. When we use a comparative adjective in front of a noun we add *than*:

✗ *Humpback whales are larger killer whales.* ✗ *Humpback whales are larger of killer whales.*
✓ *Humpback whales are larger than killer whales.*

We use object pronouns (*me, her, etc.*), not subject pronouns (*I, she, etc.*) after *than*:
Maria is taller than Anna. ✗ *Maria is taller than she.* ✓ *Maria is taller than her.*

⚠ We don't use *more* or *less* with an adjective that is already comparative:
✗ *Kevin is more taller than Sue.* ✗ *Sue is less taller than Kevin.*

We can use two comparatives to show that something is changing.
The weather is getting hotter and hotter.
Food is becoming more and more expensive these days.

🔊 **Pronunciation** ▶ 1.06

3 Superlative adjectives

We use superlative adjectives to compare more than two things. We use *the* or a possessive adjective (*my/your/his, etc.*) before the superlative form:

Blue whales are the largest whales. *What was your best subject at school?*

After superlatives we use *in* before singular nouns (i.e. the name of a place or group):
The blue whale is the largest creature in the world. *Ben is the oldest player in the team.*

But we use *of* before plural nouns:

The blue whale is the largest of the whales. *Ben is the oldest of the players.*

Practice

1 Use the words below to write comparative sentences.

- 0 Canada / big / Britain. *Canada is bigger than Britain.*
- 1 This towel / dry / that one
- 2 Magazines / interesting / newspapers
- 3 My spelling / bad / Lucy's
- 4 The airport / far / the railway station
- 5 Paris / beautiful / Berlin
- 6 Steak / good / lamb

2 Use the words below to write superlative sentences. **2.41** Listen and check.

- 0 France / large country / the European Union *France is the largest country in the European Union.*
- 1 Mario / old student / my class
- 2 Selima / tallest / the athletes
- 3 New York / big city / North America
- 4 That / beautiful tree / the garden
- 5 Harry / experienced / the workers
- 6 Mine / nice / the rooms

3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find six more mistakes in the tour guide's statement and correct them.

2.42 Listen and check.

'We only have four working elephants here at Songklan so it is ~~more small~~ ^{smaller} than the other elephant farms in the area. The largest elephant farm of this part of Thailand has 30 elephants! The four elephants here have different backgrounds and personalities. Mao-Mao travelled the most far; he came from Chaing Rai in the north of the country. Changra is the goodest worker, he loves lifting wood. But he's very greedy. He eats a lot more than the others! Selma is the most bad worker, she's very lazy. She's only eighteen years old but each year she gets lazier and more lazier! Tanan is friendlier than the other elephants; she really loves people.'

elephant	age	weight
Changra	22 years old	4500 kg
Selma	18 years old	1750 kg
Mao-Mao	24 years old	5000 kg
Tanan	17 years old	1500 kg



4 Write sentences about the elephants. Use information from Exercise 3 and the words in brackets.

- 0 (the lightest) *Tanan is the lightest of the elephants.*
- 1 (the heaviest)
- 2 (Changra / younger)
- 3 (Selma / older)
- 4 (the youngest)
- 5 (greedier / the others)
- 6 (the friendliest)

Answers

UNIT 21

- 1**
- 1 This towel is drier than that one.
 - 2 Magazines are more interesting than newspapers.
OR Magazines are less interesting than newspapers.
 - 3 My spelling is worse than Lucy's.
 - 4 The airport is further/farther than the railway station.
 - 5 Paris is more beautiful than Berlin.
OR Paris is less beautiful than Berlin.
 - 6 Steak is better than lamb.
- 2**
- 1 Mario is the oldest student in my class.
 - 2 Selima is the tallest of the athletes.
 - 3 New York is the biggest city in North America.
 - 4 That is the most beautiful tree in the garden.
 - 5 Harry is the most experienced of the workers.
 - 6 Mine is the nicest of the rooms.
- 3**
- We only have four working elephants here at Songklan so it is ~~more small~~ *smaller* than the other elephant farms in the area. The largest elephant farm ~~of in~~ this part of Thailand has 30 elephants! The four elephants here have different backgrounds and personalities. Mao-Mao travelled the ~~most far~~ *furthest*; he came from Chaing Rai in the north of the country. Changra is the ~~goodest~~ *best* worker, he loves lifting wood. But he's very greedy. He eats a lot more than the others! Selma is the ~~most bad~~ *worst* worker, she's very lazy. She's only eighteen years old but each year she gets lazier and ~~more lazier~~ *lazier*! Tanan is ~~friendlyer~~ *friendlier* than the other elephants; she really loves people.
- 4**
- 1 Mao-Mao is the heaviest of the elephants.
 - 2 Changra is younger than Mao-Mao.
 - 3 Selma is older than Tanan.
 - 4 Tanan is the youngest elephant.
 - 5 Changra is greedier than the others.
 - 6 Tanan is the friendliest of the elephants.