

## Practice Test Topic 42: The adjective

### ACTIVITY 1

Form adjectives from these nouns:

life	mathematics	influence
hand	topic	idiom
star	system	death
logic	people	circle
law	angel	sun
fact	music	back
mouth	nature	atom
tooth	moon	

### ACTIVITY 2

Provide the opposite of these adjectives by using the appropriate negative prefix:

legible	happy	kind
academic	even	precise
satisfied	perfect	complete
courteous	sugared	friendly
medical	possible	legal
conclusive	corruptible	likely
loyal	natural	certain
consistent	breakable	obedient

### ACTIVITY 3

Complete the sentences with an appropriate comparative or superlative adjective. Use an *-er/-est* or *more/most* form. Indicate where both forms are possible.

*alike*      *common*      *complex*      *confident*      *forceful*  
*likely*      *relaxed*      *simple*      *wide*      *hot*

1. I feel much ..... now that the exams are over.
2. Our new car is a little ..... than our old one, but still fits easily into the garage.
3. Her latest speech was strong and confident, and some people now consider her to be the ..... figure in British politics.
4. Now that they had both had their hair cut, the twins looked even ..... than usual.
5. Throughout the match, Barcelona looked the ..... winners.
6. Scientists claim that oil pollution is now the ..... cause of death among sea birds.

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7. The last exam was quite easy and I began to feel ..... about my results.
8. Another, even ....., computer had to be designed to control the environment of the space station.
9. It's been the ..... day in London for 35 years.
10. This exercise is too difficult. I think you should make it .....

**ACTIVITY 4**

**Complete the sentences with *as... as* or *not as/such... as*. Sometimes two answers are possible. Use the words in brackets and add any other necessary words.**

1. It's ..... I've ever read in a newspaper. (intelligent/article)
2. Since her accident, Mary had tried to lead ..... possible. (normal/life)
3. It's ..... I'd imagined. (not/beautiful/house)
4. They're ..... in the last school I worked at. (not/well-behaved/children)
5. Mr Truworth is ..... his predecessor was. (not/popular/president)
6. The new motorway is ..... it is in the countryside (not/major/issue/town)

**ACTIVITY 5**

**Say if the adjectives in the following sentences are inherent or non-inherent.**

1. A poor man is not necessarily unhappy.
2. The precise answer is not, as it happens, very precise.
3. A strong supporter does not need to be strong.
4. The perfect solution was found by a perfect genius.
5. The main argument is not, of course, the only one.
6. A big eater is quite often a big man.
7. A hard worker may well have a soft heart.
8. A criminal lawyer does not usually have a criminal record.
9. A complete victory may be won by a complete rogue.
10. A certain friend of mine is by no means certain of the outcome of the negotiations.
11. The people present are waiting for the result of the present talks.
12. Men who spend days in a lunar module are real heroes.

**ACTIVITY 6**

**Are the underlined adjectives gradable or non-gradable?**

1. The play was marvellous.
2. The answer is simple.
3. His new flat is enormous.
4. He was devastated by the news.
5. The instructions were complicated.
6. I was disappointed.
7. The answer was absurd.
8. The questions were hard.
9. Her books are popular.
10. I was terrified by the film.
11. He's a successful artist.
12. He's an essential member of the team.

**ACTIVITY 7**

**Adjectives and adverbs: find and correct the mistakes. If there are no mistakes, put a tick.**

1. She speaks English fluent.
2. I think you behaved very cowardlily.
3. Everyone says that he's now enormous rich.
4. We'll never catch them up if you walk as slow as that.
5. She turned to him astonishedly. 'I don't believe you,' he said.
6. Wearing a white shirt and new suit, he thought he looked really well.
7. He plays the guitar remarkable good for his age.
8. Chop the herbs finely and sprinkle them on top of the pasta.
9. He stepped back and looked satisfiedly at the newly-painted door.

ANSWER KEY

ACTIVITY 1

<u>life</u> lifeless, lively, life-like	<u>mathematics</u> mathematical	<u>influence</u> influential
<u>hand</u> handy, overhand (out of reach)	<u>topic</u> topical	<u>idiom</u> idiomatic
<u>star</u> starry, starless	<u>system</u> systemic, systematical	<u>death</u> deathly, dead, deadly
<u>logic</u> (il)logical	<u>people</u> popular	<u>circle</u> circular
<u>law</u> (un)lawful	<u>angel</u> angelical	<u>sun</u> sunny
<u>fact</u> factual	<u>music</u> musical	<u>back</u> backdoor
<u>mouth</u> mouthy	<u>nature</u> natural	<u>atom</u> atomic
<u>tooth</u> toothless, toothy	<u>moon</u> moonless, moonlike, moony	

ACTIVITY 2

<u>legible</u> illegible	<u>happy</u> unhappy	<u>kind</u> unkind
<u>academic</u> non-academic	<u>even</u> uneven	<u>precise</u> imprecise
<u>satisfied</u> dissatisfied	<u>perfect</u> imperfect	<u>complete</u> incomplete
<u>courteous</u> discourteous	<u>sugared</u> unsugared	<u>friendly</u> unfriendly
<u>medical</u> non-medical	<u>possible</u> impossible	<u>legal</u> illegal
<u>conclusive</u> inconclusive	<u>corruptible</u> incorruptible	<u>likely</u> unlikely
<u>loyal</u> disloyal	<u>natural</u> unnatural	<u>certain</u> uncertain
<u>consistent</u> inconsistent	<u>breakable</u> unbreakable	<u>obedient</u> disobedient

**Comentado [Office1]:** Careful with negative prefixes, especially in the translation and word-formation exercises.

ACTIVITY 3

- I feel much **more relaxed** now that the exams are over.
- Our new car is a little **wider** than our old one, but still fits easily into the garage.
- Her latest speech was strong and confident, and some people now consider her to be the **most forceful** figure in British politics.
- Now that they had both had their hair cut, the twins looked even **more alike** than usual.
- Throughout the match, Barcelona looked the **likeliest / the most likely** winners.
- Scientists claim that oil pollution is now the **commonest** cause of death among sea birds.
- The last exam was quite easy and I began to feel **more confident** about my results.
- Another, even **more complex**, computer had to be designed to control the environment of the space station.
- It's been the **hottest** day in London for 35 years.
- This exercise is too difficult. I think you should make it **simpler**.

**Comentado [Office2]:** Some 2-syllable adjectives allow both the inflectional and the periphrastic structure (*commoner – more common*). This also applies to 2-syllable adjectives ending in -y. Therefore, *the most likely* is also possible.

As regards adverbs such as *quickly* or *slowly*, -ly is regarded as a suffix to derive an adverb from an adjective. In these cases, and despite the fact that they are 2-syllable adverbs ending in -y, only the periphrastic form is possible: *more quickly; more slowly*.

ACTIVITY 4

- It's **as intelligent an article as** I've ever read in a newspaper. (intelligent/article) (the most intelligent article I've ever read).
- Since her accident, Mary had tried to lead **as normal a life as possible**. (normal/life)
- It's **not as beautiful a house as / not such a beautiful house as** I'd imagined. (not/beautiful/house)

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4. They're **not such well-behaved children as** in the last school I worked at. (not/well-behaved/children)
5. Mr Truworth is **not as popular a president as / not such popular president as** his predecessor was. (not/ popular/president)
6. The new motorway is **not as major an issue as / not such major issue as** it is in the countryside (not/major/issue/town)

**ACTIVITY 5**

1. A poor (**inh.**) man is not necessarily unhappy (**inh.**).
2. The precise (**non-inh.**) answer is not, as it happens, very precise (**inh.**).
3. A strong (**non-inh.**) supporter does not need to be strong (**inh.**).
4. The perfect (**inh.**) solution was found by a perfect (**non-inh.**) genius.
5. **The main argument (non-inh.) is not, of course, the only one.**
6. A big (**non-inh.**) eater is quite often a big (**inh.**) man.
7. A hard (**non-inh.**) worker may well have a soft (**inh.**) heart.
8. A criminal (**non-inh.**) lawyer does not usually have a criminal (**inh.**) record.
9. A complete (**inh.**) victory may be won by a complete (**non-inh.**) rogue.
10. A certain (**non-inh.**) friend of mine is by no means certain (**inh.**) of the outcome of the negotiations.
11. The people present (**inh.**) are waiting for the result of the present (**non-inh.**) talks.
12. Men who spend days in a lunar (**inh.**) module are real (**non-inh.**) heroes.

**ACTIVITY 6**

1. The play was marvellous. **NG**
2. The answer is simple. **G**
3. His new flat is enormous. **NG**
4. He was devastated by the news. **NG**
5. The instructions were complicated. **G**
6. I was disappointed. **G**
7. The answer was absurd. **NG**
8. The questions were hard. **G**
9. Her books are popular. **G**
10. I was terrified by the film. **NG**
11. He's a successful artist. **G**
12. He's an essential member of the team. **NG**

**ACTIVITY 7**

1. She speaks English fluent. → She speaks fluent English / She speaks English fluently.
2. I think you behaved very cowardly. → cowardly
3. Everyone says that he's now enormous rich. → enormously rich.

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4. We'll never catch them up if you walk as slow as that. → ✓
5. She turned to him ~~astonishedly~~. 'I don't believe you,' he said. → astonished.
6. Wearing a white shirt and new suit, he thought he looked really ~~well~~. → good.
7. He plays the guitar ~~remarkable good~~ for his age. → remarkably well
8. Chop the herbs finely and sprinkle them on top of the pasta. → ✓
9. He stepped back and looked ~~satisfiedly~~ at the newly-painted door. → satisfied.