

ISM TAFDEEL COMPARATIVE & SUPERLATIVE ISMS

In language when comparing two things or deeming something the best certain words are used which are called comparative and superlative adjectives.

Comparative Adjectives

In English when we compare between two things meaning where we deem one thing to have more of something and the other having less of it, we use words that are comparative for example

This city is more populated than that city

Or

This cake is better than that one

In both the above sentences words like **more** and **better** followed by **THAN** shows that they are comparative adjectives.

In Arabic such words are called **IsM Tafdeel** and they all come on the scale of **أَفْعُلُ**

After such adjectives the word "**THAN**" we use in English when we do comparison is what the "**مِنْ**" is used for in Arabic

Normal form **كَبِيرٌ** Big

Comparative form **أَكْبَرُ** Bigger

Normal form **طَوِيلٌ** tall

Comparative for **أَطْوَلُ** taller

Quranic Example

صِبْغَةَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ صِبْغَةً وَتَحَنُّنٌ لَهُ عَابِدُونَ (البقرة: ١٣٨)

Say, "Take Allah's colour, and who can give a better colour than Allah? Therefore, we worship and submit to Him alone. "

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَكَانَ عَرْشُهُ عَلَى الْمَاءِ لِيَبْلُوكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَلَئِنْ قُلْتُمْ إِنَّكُمْ مَبْعُوثُونَ مِنْ بَعْدِ الْمَوْتِ لَيَقُولَنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا سِحْرٌ مُبِينٌ (هود: ٧)

And He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in six days - and [before that] His Throne was upon the water that He may test you, who of you is **better** in conduct If you were to say (O Muhammad): 'All of you will surely be raised after death', then those who disbelieve will certainly say: 'This is nothing but plain sorcery.

From the above example we see that in Arabic the word "مِنْ" is optional after a comparative noun. Another example is

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

The Ism Tafdeel after the Lafzul Jalaalah "Allah" dose not have مِنْ mentioned in words. Here the meaning is Allah is greater than whatever you are doing so leave it and go towards what Allah is calling you to do.

Comparative words are used for both masculine and feminine isms

هُوَ أَكْبَرُ

هِيَ أَكْبَرُ

Superlative Adjectives

When stating that something is the best and uncomparable we use superlative nouns like

This is the best restaurant in this community

Or

He is the tallest boy in the class

In the above sentences the words **best** and **tallest** are superlative adjectives

In Arabic superlative form is made from comparative nouns in two ways. They are as follows,

1. Put **أَلْ** on the comparative ism so

Akbaru is comparative أَكْبَرُ
Alakbaru is superlative الْأَكْبَرُ

2. Bring comparative ism as a mudaf and it will become superlative

Ahsanul qasasi **أَحْسَنُ الْقَصَصِ**
The best of the stories

Here the word **أَحْسَنُ** is an ism which is Light and no al so its a mudaf as the ism after it is in the jaar status. When ism tafdeel comes as a mudaaf it becomes superlative. Also we know that if you put ال on a partially flexible ism or it is brought as a mudaf in idaafah fragment then they become fully flexible

Quranic Examples

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النُّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظَامًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَامَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ
أَنْشَأْنَاهُ خَلْقًا آخَرَ فَبَارَكُ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ (المؤمنون: ١٤)

then We made this drop into a clot, then We made the clot into a lump, then We made the lump into bones, then We clothed the bones with flesh, and then We caused it to grow into another creation. Thus Most Blessed is Allah, the Best of all those that create.

اِيْحَزْنُهُمُ الْفَزَعُ الْأَكْبَرُ وَتَتَلَقَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ هَذَا يَوْمُكُمْ الَّذِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ (الأنبياء: ١٠٣)

The Hour of the Great (Greatest) Terror shall not grieve them, and the angels shall receive them saying: "This is your Day which you had been promised."

An example given by ustadh was **أَقْوَى** but at bbq arab said that it sounds weird so they replaced the harakah of **ي** with **ى** (ى) which is closest to the harakah of **و** and it became non flexible and as well as comparative . It means strong

I'm stronger than you

أنا أقوى منك

MASCULINE & FEMININE FORMS

Comparative nouns are used for both masculine and feminine nouns

But for Superlative words there is a different word for masculine and feminine

Alakbaru is masculine الأَكْبَرُ

Alkubraa is feminine الْكُبْرَى

Further examples are

COMPARATIVE NOUNS	SUPERLATIVE MASCULINE FORM	SUPERLATIVE FEMININE FORM
أَصْغَرُ	الأَصْغَرُ	الصُّغْرَى
أَعْظَمُ	الأَعْظَمُ	العُظْمَى
أَحْسَنُ	الأَحْسَنُ	الحُسْنَى
أَعْلَى	الأَعْلَى	العُلْيَا
أَسْفَلُ	الأَسْفَلُ	السُّفْلَى
أَدْنَى	الأَدْنَى	الدُّنْيَا

QURANIC EXAMPLES

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ (٤)

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَاهُ أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ (٥)

أَلَيْسَ اللَّهُ بِأَحْكَمِ الْحَاكِمِينَ (٨)

سُورَةُ التِّينِ

positive أَحْسَنَ تَقْوِيمٍ

negative أَسْفَلَ سَافِلِينَ

Common mudaf ilayh

People who were not proper to Allah they became common

positive بِأَحْكَمِ الْحَاكِمِينَ

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِمَا صَبَرْتُمْ فَنِعْمَ عُقْبَى الدَّارِ (الرعد: ٢٤)

حُسْنَى الدَّارِ
عُقْبَى الدَّارِ