



English for Computer Science and Engineering

Unit 5

Optical Laser Disks: High-Density Storage

predict	foretell	پیش بینی نمودن
eventually	finally, in the end	نهایتاً
obsolete	ancient, useless	فرسوده، منسوخ
beam	ray of light	شعاع، پرتو
score	cut, make a notch	خط انداختن، شیار ایجاد نمودن
pit	hole	حفره
deflect	deviate	منکسر کردن، شکستن
double	multiply by two	مضاعف نمودن
burst	erupt, break open	منفجر شدن

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seam	line where two pieces are stitched together	شکاف ، درز لباس
decline	refuse, go down, decrease	،تنزل کردن ،کاستن
impractical	unpractical, not useful	غیر عملی ،نشدنی
warehouse	wholesale store, storehouse	انبار ، مخزن
distant	remote, far apart	دوردست
periodical	magazine, journal	مجله ،نشریه دوره ای
loan	borrowed money	وام
stabilize	make stable	استوار کردن
spinoff	byproduct, offshoot	محصول جانبی، شاخه

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compact	dense, condensed	فشرده
alter	change, modify	تغییر دادن
bump	blow, stroke	ضربت
land	top layer , surface	، سطح کوچک صاف
detector	sensor	آشکار ساز ، کشف کننده
analogous	similar	مشابه
device	apparatus	دستگاه
jukebox	machine which contains a collection of records and plays by inserting coin	جعبه گرامافون
poised to	ready	آماده

Optical Laser Disks: High-Density Storage

tremendous	huge, enormous	چشمگیر، مقدار زیاد، شگرف
commercially	relating to buying and selling	از لحاظ تجاری
peripheral	external, outer	دستگاه جانبی
proprietary	of an owner, of property	اختصاصی
cartridge	removable unit containing a data storage medium	قاب نوار
retailer	selling goods to final consumers	خرده فروش
pursue	chase after, follow	تعقیب کردن

Electronic Publishing: Saving the Trees

enthusiastic	excited, intensely interested	مشتاق، علاقه مند
manual	handbook	راهنما
correspondence	exchange of letters, similarity	تشابه، مکاتبات
partially	partly	اندکی
retrieve	find information and display it as output	بازیابی

Language focus E

Making comparisons

Formation

The regular comparative and superlative forms of descriptive words (adjectives and adverbs) are shown below:

- 1 Words of one syllable add the ending *-er* and *-est*.

Examples:

	Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives	new old big	newer older bigger	newest oldest biggest
Adverbs	soon late	sooner later	soonest latest

- 2 Words with three or more syllables are preceded by *more* and *most*.

Examples:

	Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives	interesting convenient beautiful	more interesting more convenient more beautiful	most interesting most convenient most beautiful
Adverbs	easily carefully	more easily more carefully	most easily most carefully

- 3 Adjectives with two syllables may be like 1 or 2 above in that they will add the ending *-er* and *-est* if they end in *-y* or *-ly*, *-ow*, *-le* and *-er*.

Examples:

	Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
-y	tiny speedy	tinier speedier	tiniest speediest
-ly	early friendly	earlier friendlier	earliest friendliest
-ow	shallow narrow	shallower narrower	shallowest narrowest
-er	clever	cleverer	cleverest

- 4 Most of the remaining two-syllable adjectives take *more* and *most* in front of them.

Examples:

Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
careful	more careful	most careful
careless	more careless	most careless
boring	more boring	most boring
awful	more awful	most awful
complex	more complex	most complex

- 5 Some common two-syllable adjectives can have either type of formation.

Examples:

Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
common	commoner/ more common	commonest/ most common
gentle	gentler/ more gentle	gentlest most gentle
quiet	quieter/ more quiet	quietest/ most quiet

- 6 Two-syllable adverbs ending in *-ly* take *more* and *most*.

Examples:

Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
quickly	more quickly	most quickly
slowly	more slowly	most slowly
badly	more badly	most badly

- 7 A small number of adjectives and adverbs have an irregular comparative and superlative form.

Examples:

	Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives	bad	worse	worst
	far	further/farther	furthest/farthest
	good	better	best
	many	more	most
Adverbs	badly	worse	worst
	far	further/farther	furthest/farthest
	little	less	least
	much	more	most
	well	better	best

Use in sentences

Comparisons may show equivalence, non-equivalence, the highest degree of something, and parallel increase.

- 1 **Equivalence: the following words or constructions are used to show that things or people are similar in some way.**

as ... as	are similar	each
as many ... as	equal to	either
as much ... as	is like	all
the same ... as	similar/ly	both
similar to	equal/ly	alike
the same	compared to/with	

Examples:

- 1 Here, the term 'processor' is **equivalent to** the central processing unit.
- 2 Laptops are **as** powerful **as** microcomputers.
- 3 Some companies have **as many** computers **as** employees.
- 4 Some companies use **both** disks **and** conventional filing systems for storing data.
- 5 A computer virus is **like** a virus in the human body. It can do a lot of damage.
- 6 Many word-processing programs are **similar** in that they share certain common functions.

- 2 **Non-equivalence: the following words and constructions are used to compare or contrast things or people that are separate from each other.**

not as ... as	greater than	unequal(ly)
...-er than	not as many ... as	unlike
more ... than	not as much ... as	not the same as
fewer ... than	not equal to	not all
less ... than		

Examples:

- 1 A mainframe **is larger** and **more** expensive **than** a microcomputer.
- 2 Learning to use a computer is **not as** difficult **as** learning to program.
- 3 A fax board costs **less than** a fax machine.
- 4 **Unlike** factory-sealed software, pirated versions may contain viruses.
- 5 Desktop publishing is **the same as** electronic publishing.
- 6 You can save money with a network because you will need **fewer** printers.

- 3 **The highest degree: the following words and constructions are used to compare one member of a group with the whole group (superlative).**

the ...-est	the most ...	the least ...
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Examples:

- 1 This is **the most popular** package on the market today.
- 2 BASIC is probably **the least difficult** programming language to learn.
- 3 **The best** programs are those adapted specifically to your own needs.

- 4 Parallel increase: the following words and constructions are used to show parallel increase (two comparatives).

the ...-er, the more ... the more ..., the ...-er the ...-er, the less ...

Examples:

- 1 **The more memory** your computer has, **the more data** it can store.
- 2 **The bigger** your computer system, **the less time** you spend waiting.
- 3 **The more** training you give to your employees, **the better** they will perform.

Exercise 1

The following sentences express computer capabilities and limitations. Decide whether the sentences express equivalence, non-equivalence, or the superlative, then underline the words expressing the comparison. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 *equivalence* Speeds for performing decision-making operations are comparable to those for arithmetic operations.
- 2 _____ Even the most sophisticated computer, no matter how good it is, must be told what to do.
- 3 _____ A computer can perform similar operations thousands of times, without becoming bored, tired, or careless.
- 4 _____ For example, modern computers can solve certain classes of arithmetic problems millions of times faster than a skilled mathematician.
- 5 _____ One of the most important reasons why computers are used so widely today is that almost every big problem can be solved by solving a number of little problems.
- 6 _____ Finally, a computer, unlike a human being, has no intuition.

Exercise 2

Read the following sentences taken from previous units. Decide whether the sentences express equivalence, non-equivalence, or the superlative, then underline the words expressing the comparison.

- 1 _____ Digital Research have continued to develop their operating system, DR/DOS, and it is considered by many people to be a better product than Microsoft's. (Unit 1)
- 2 _____ For the last generation, Silicon Valley and Tokyo have been working to design computers that are ever easier to use. (Unit 2)
- 3 _____ There is one thing, however, that has prevented the machines from becoming their user-friendliest: ... (Unit 2)
- 4 _____ Clipboard PCs – which, as their name suggests, are not much bigger than an actual clipboard – replace the keyboard with a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen and an electronic stylus. (Unit 2)
- 5 _____ When the computer finds the closest match, it encodes the character in memory and displays it on the screen as if it had been typed. (Unit 2)
- 6 _____ There are a handful of clipboard computers now on the market, including GRIDPad, which is sold in the US; Penvision, manufactured by NCR and sold around the world; and Sony's Palmtop and Canon's AI Note, both sold only in Japan. (Unit 2)
- 7 _____ I'm frequently asked which online service is 'best' but, the answer is, there is no best. (Unit 3)

- 8 _____ They tend to judge all other online services based on this first service – often preventing themselves from seeing the advantages of a specific service. (Unit 3)
- 9 _____ Each offers one or more products or features that either do not exist elsewhere or are superior to the same features on other services. (Unit 3)
- 10 _____ Judge it based on what it offers and how it meets your needs – not in comparison to what you're used to using. (Unit 3)

Exercise 3

Refer back to the table of word-processing packages (Unit 5, page 58) and write ten sentences comparing the products advertised.

Examples:

Upword is more expensive than JustWrite.

Ami Pro 2.0 has the largest spell check dictionary.