Degree, Comparison, & Negatives Worksheet 1:

Exercise 1: Comparatives and Degree (Gap Fill)

Instruction: Complete the sentences below using a suitable **comparative**, **superlative**, or **degree** word.

The Sleepless Elite.

Most adults need between seven and nine hours of sleep to function effectively. However, there is a small group of people known as "Short Sleepers" who require **(1)** _____ sleep than the average person. For these individuals, four hours a night is **(2)** _____ to feel fully rested and energetic.

Research suggests that this ability is genetic rather **(3)** _____ a learned habit. Short sleepers often report having **(4)** _____ energy than their peers, and they are rarely tired during the day. In fact, some of the **(5)** _____ successful figures in history, such as Margaret Thatcher and Napoleon, were short sleepers. It is **(6)** _____ a rare condition that it affects only about 1% of the population. While many of us wish we had more time in the day, forcing yourself to sleep less is **(7)** _____ worse for your health than sleeping **(8)** _____ much. Sleeping pills are **(9)** _____ effective in the long run and can actually make the problem **(10)** _____ severe over time.

Exercise 2: Negatives and Frequency (Word Bank Gap Fill)

Instruction: Complete the sentences using a word from the box. There are four extra words which you do not need to use.

Word Bank: NOTHING • USUALLY • OTHER • NONE • NO • RATHER • NEVER • ANOTHER • NOT • QUITE • ALWAYS • RARELY

1. There is _____ point in arguing with him; he has already made up his mind and won't change it.
2. Although the hotel was expensive, _____ of the rooms had a view of the sea.
3. We need to find _____ solution to this problem because the current strategy is not working.
4. The CEO is _____ seen in the office before 10 am as she prefers to work from home in the mornings.
5. I have _____ met anyone with such a detailed knowledge of ancient history before.
6. The report had absolutely _____ to do with the marketing department, yet they were blamed for the error.
7. While some employees accepted the new contract, _____ staff members refused to sign it until the terms were improved.
8. It was _____ a difficult decision to make, but ultimately we decided to cancel the project.

Exercise 3: The Nuance Check (Multiple Choice)

Instruction: Choose the correct option (A, B, or C) to complete the sentence. Pay attention to the subtle grammatical differences.

1. The new software update is _____ faster than the previous version.

A) very B) far C) so

2. We have decided to stay in London for _____ three days to visit the museums.

   A) other B) others C) another

3. He is _____ a talented engineer that he was promoted twice in one year.

   A) such B) so C) quite

4. Unfortunately, the candidate did not have _____ experience for the senior role.

   A) enough B) too C) plenty

5. The company is _____ interested in buying the property, but the price is too high.

   A) so B) very C) much

6. She speaks French _____ Spanish, which makes her a valuable asset to the international team.

   A) as well as B) in order to C) so that

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Exercise 1 Answers

1. **less** (Comparative: "less sleep than")
2. **enough** (Degree: "enough to feel")
3. **than** (Comparison phrase: "rather than")
4. **more** (Comparative: "more energy than")
5. **most** (Superlative: "most successful")
6. **such** (Degree/Emphasis: "such a rare condition that")
7. **far / much** (Intensifier for comparative: "far worse")
8. **too** (Degree: "too much")
9. **not / less** (Negative degree: "not effective" or "less effective")
10. **more** (Comparative: "make the problem more severe")

Exercise 2 Answers

1. **NO** (Determiner: "No point in")
2. **NONE** (Quantifier: "None of the rooms")
3. **ANOTHER** (Determiner: "Another solution" - singular countable)
4. **RARELY** (Adverb of Frequency: "Rarely seen")
5. **NEVER** (Adverb of Frequency: "I have never met")
6. **NOTHING** (Pronoun: "Nothing to do with")
7. **OTHER** (Determiner: "Other staff members")
8. **QUITE** (Intensifier: "Quite a difficult decision")

Exercise 3 Answers & Explanations

1. **B) far** – We use "far" (or "much") to intensify comparative adjectives (e.g., "far faster"). "Very" is used with base adjectives ("very fast") but never with comparatives.
2. **C) another** – "Another" is used with numbers and plural time expressions to mean "an additional amount" (e.g., "another three days"). "Other" requires "the" or "my" to be specific in this context.
3. **A) such** – We use "such" before a noun phrase ("a talented engineer"). "So" is used only before adjectives ("so talented").
4. **A) enough** – "Enough" is placed *before* nouns to indicate sufficient quantity ("enough experience"). "Too" indicates excessive quantity but is not a determiner in this way; we would say "too much experience."
5. **B) very** – "Interested" is a past participle functioning as an adjective, so it is intensified with "very." "Much" is generally used with comparatives or in negative sentences (e.g., "not much interested").
6. **A) as well as** – "As well as" acts as a conjunction meaning "in addition to," linking two positive skills. "In order to" and "so that" express purpose, which does not fit the logic here.