

## Word-classes in E4BT

### 3. Exercises on qualifiers

Read the following passages and give the correct higher degree comparative or relative superlative – according to the context:

- One of the first signs of illness noted by astute parrot owners may be a decrease in talking or other vocalizing. Owners often overlook these early changes and medical care is delayed until the condition is too far advanced for optimal care. With alertness on your part, care can be provided ..... (1. promptly<sup>1</sup>) and your pet can live a ..... (2. long) and ..... (3. healthy) life.
- Many different types of diseases can affect the nervous system, including birth defects, infections, inflammatory conditions, poisoning, metabolic disorders, nutritional disorders, injuries, degenerative diseases, or cancer. Neurologic diseases are often ..... (1. common) in a particular breed or sex, or tend to occur at a certain age.
- Mature sows do not need more energy than that required for maintenance and some increase in body weight. If gestation diets contain oats, alfalfa meal, or other energy diluents, ..... (1. high) feeding levels will be needed to meet the sow's daily energy requirement. Attempts to limit voluntary feed intake during gestation by allowing ad lib access to extremely high-fiber diets has not been successful; invariably, excess weight gain occurs.
- Tumors are abnormal growths of cells. Tumors affecting the skin or the tissue just under the skin are ..... (1. commonly) seen tumors in dogs. Skin tumors are diagnosed ..... (2. frequently) than other tumors in animals in part because they are ..... (3. easily) seen tumors and in part because the skin is constantly exposed to many tumor-causing factors in the environment.
- The ..... (1. deadly) infectious diseases – As far as I am aware there is no such thing as a good disease but believe me some are ..... (2. bad) than others. Whilst it is an ecological necessity that infectious disease pathogens evolve to spread ..... (3. efficiently) there is no obvious reason why some of them wreak such horrific deaths on their hosts. [...]
- To most people **flu** is a pretty unpleasant illness contracted 2-3 times in a lifetime. However, influenza was responsible for one of the ..... (4. destructive) pandemics of all time – the Spanish Flu (1918-1919) which killed up to 100 million people. [...] The ..... (5. recent) flu to hit the headlines was Swine influenza. [...] Perhaps the ..... (6. big) reason to fear influenza is its ability to combine and mutate to form new strains.
- The ..... (7. common) initial symptoms of **tuberculosis** are coughing up blood followed by rapid weight loss – this is, where the name consumption came from.
- **Anthrax** is a bacterial infection which in most forms is lethal. There are three ways in which a person can become infected and this is very important to how the disease progresses. The ..... (8.

<sup>1</sup> Adverbs of manner have their own higher / lower / same degree comparatives and absolute / relative superlatives as well – the rules to build up them are the same as the qualifiers.

lethal) way is by inhalation. [...] Anthrax is rare but has not been consigned to the history books. In recent years two cases involving drum skins in US and UK have been reported. The mode of infection here was through the drum skins made from animals being contaminated with anthrax spores. This is one of the ..... (9. scary) things about anthrax: it can exist as dormant spores which may survive for 100s of years.

- **Cholera** is one of the ..... (10. infectious) diseases and is easily passed through contaminated food and water. [...] The ..... (11. virulent) strains of cholera can kill within 2 hrs if the patient is left untreated.
- [...] What the 95% actually means is that vaccinated people had a 95% ..... (12. low) risk of getting **COVID-19** compared with the control group participants, who weren't vaccinated. In other words, vaccinated people in the Pfizer clinical trial were 20 times less likely than the control group to get COVID-19. That makes the vaccine "one of the ..... (13. effective) vaccines that we have".
- Nicholas Davies and his colleagues at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimated that the new variant is 56% ..... (14. transmissible) than other variants. The authors found no evidence that the variant of concern causes ..... (15. severe) COVID-19 than other variants.