Incorrect: In our school the number of students is less.
Correct: In our school the number of students is small.

**Explanation**

*Less* is the comparative of *little*. Comparative forms are not used in sentences where no comparison is implied. But is the sentence ‘In our school the number of students is little’ correct? No. The adjective *little* can be used only in the attributive position (before a noun). In the predicative position (after a verb like *is*) we have to use a word with a similar meaning.

Incorrect: From the two she is pretty.
Correct: She is the prettier of the two.
Incorrect: Of the two routes this is the short.
Correct: Of the two routes this is the shorter.

**Explanation**

When a comparison is made between two people or things we use a structure with *of*, not *from*. Note that we use an adjective or adverb in the comparative form to compare two people or things.

Incorrect: From the three he is the smarter.
Correct: He is the smartest of the three.

**Explanation**

To compare more than two people or things we use an adjective or adverb in the superlative degree.

Incorrect: There is a best student in that class.
Correct: There is a very good student in that class.

**Explanation**

It is wrong to use comparative and superlative forms when no comparison is implied.

Compare:
Charles is the **smartest** boy in the class. (Here Charles is being compared with other boys in the class. Therefore, we use a superlative adjective.)
He is the **smarter of the two brothers**. (Here a comparison is made between two people. Therefore we use a comparative adjective.)
He is a **smart boy**. OR He is **very smart**. (Here no comparison is implied. Therefore we use a positive adjective.)
Incorrect: I have never seen a so good boy.
Correct: I have never seen such a good boy.
Correct: I have never seen so good a boy.
Incorrect: He was a so big man that he could not sit in that chair.
Correct: He was so big a man that he could not sit in that chair.

**Explanation**

*So* is very often used in the rather formal structure **so + adjective + a/an + singular countable noun**. Note that it is wrong to put the article before *so* in this structure.

Incorrect: Yours affectionate brother
Correct: Your affectionate brother
Correct: Yours affectionately
Incorrect: Your lovely friend
Correct: Your loving friend

*Lovely* doesn’t mean the same as *loving*. 