

SUPERLATIVES

Main theme addressed	In this lesson you will learn how to form the superlative adjectives using 'est' or most.
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <p>1. How to compare one thing, person, place or idea in a group with all of the others in the group.</p>

1. How to compare one thing, person, place or idea in a group with all of the others in the group

Study these examples:

What is the **longest** river in the world?

What was the **most enjoyable** holiday you've ever had?

Longest and **most enjoyable** are superlative forms.

The superlative form is made by adding **'-est'** at the end of the adjective, or the word **"most"** before the adjective.

In general, we use **'-est'** ('st' if the word ends in -e) if the **adjective is short** and has one syllable and **"the most + adjective"** for longer words.

The rules are the same as those for the comparatives.

- long → the **longest**
- hot → the **hottest**
- easy → the **easiest**
- hard → the **hardest**

But

- famous → the **most famous**
- boring → the **most boring**
- difficult → the **most difficult**

If a short adjective ends in **one vowel and one consonant**, double the consonant and then add **'-est'**.

! There is one exception! Never double a **'w'**.

- big → **biggest**
- slim → **slimmest**

But:

- new → **newest**
- slow → **slowest**

With these common **two-syllable adjectives**, you can either add: **'-est'** / **'-st'** or use **most**.

We normally use **the** before a superlative.

Examples:

That was **the happiest** day of my life.

She is a really hard-working person, one of **the most** hard-working people I know.

Some adjectives have **irregular superlative** forms:

- good → **the best**
- bad → **the worst**
- far → **farthest / furthest**
- much / many / a lot of → **the most**
- a little → **the least**

Exercise:

Fill the gap in the sentences by forming the superlative of the adjective in brackets.

Example: She's got a really big house and a Porsche. She's the richest (rich) person I know!

1. He can pick up a 50-kilo bag of potatoes. He's _____
(strong) man I know.
2. I almost fell asleep in the film. It was _____ (boring)
film out for a long time!
3. Wow! This rice is so good! It's _____ (delicious) food
that my mother makes!
4. This car does 280 kph. Maybe it's _____ (fast) car in
the world.
5. Which is _____ (high) mountain in the world?
6. Jason is _____ (lazy) boy in the class.
7. July is _____ (hot) month of the year.
8. This is _____ (comfortable) armchair in the house.
9. This is _____ (easy) exercise in the book.
10. Peter is _____ (helpful) teacher in the school.
11. This is _____ (cold) beach in the island.
12. These are _____ (expensive) trousers I've ever
bought.
13. My cat is _____ (fat) in the neighbourhood.

14. Are banks _____ (safe) place to put your money?
15. Rick is lost and is trying to find _____ (quick) way home before it gets darker.

Answers:

1. the strongest
2. the most boring
3. the most delicious
4. the fastest
5. the highest
6. the lasiest
7. the hottest
8. the most comfortable
9. the easiest
10. the youngest
11. the coldest
12. the most expensive
13. the fattest
14. the safest
15. the quickest

After superlatives we normally use in with **places**:

Examples:

What's **the longest** river in the world?

We had a nice room. It was one of **the best** in the hotel.

We also use in for **organisations** and **groups of people** (a class / a company etc...).

Example:

Who is the youngest student in the class?

We often use **the Present Perfect** (I have done ...) after a superlative:

Examples:

What's the most important decision you've ever had to make?

That was the best holiday I've had for a long time.

Exercise:

Complete the sentences. Use a superlative + a preposition (of or in):

Example: It's a very good room. It is **the best** room in the hotel.

1. It's a very cheap restaurant. It's _____ the town.
2. It was a very happy day. It was _____ my life.
3. She's a very intelligent student. She's _____ class.
4. It's a very valuable painting. It's _____ gallery.
5. Spring is a very busy time for me. It's _____ year.

Answers:

1. the cheapest
2. the happiest
3. the most intelligent
4. the most valuable
5. the busiest

Exercise:

What do you say in these situations? Use a superlative + ever. Use the words in brackets (in the correct form):

Example: You've just been to the cinema. The film was extremely boring. You tell your friend: (boring / film / see). That's **the most boring** film I've ever seen.

1. Your friend has just told you a joke, which you think is very funny. You say:

(funny / joke / hear)

That's _____
_____.

2. You're drinking coffee with a friend. It's really good coffee. You say:

(good/coffee/taste)

This is _____
_____.

3. You are talking to a friend about Mary. Mary is very generous. You tell your friend about her: (generous/person/meet)

She's _____
_____.

4. You decided to resign from your job. Now you think this was a bad mistake. You say to your friend: (bad/mistake/make)

It's _____
_____.

5. Your friend meets a lot of people, some of them famous. You ask your friend: (famous/person/meet?)

Who's _____
_____.

Answers:

1. the funniest joke I've ever heard.
2. the best coffee I've ever tasted.
3. the most generous person I've ever met.
4. the worst mistake I've ever made.
5. the most famous person you've ever met?

Learn More:

<https://agendaweb.org/grammar/comparison-superlative-exercises.html>

<https://www.english-4u.de/en/grammar-exercises/comparison-superlative.htm>

<https://www.english-in-chester.co.uk/e-learning/lesson/superlatives-comparatives/>