

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.

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.

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 _____
_____.



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/>