

Superlative Adjectives

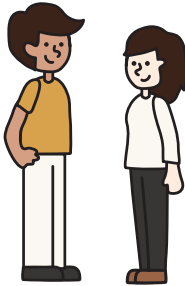
1	Grammar Notes	2
2	Adjective Formation	4
3	Fill in the Blanks	5
4	Spot the Errors	6
5	Making Comparisons	7
6	Group Work	8
A	Answer Key	9
B	Spelling Rules	11

1 Grammar Notes

A. Introduction

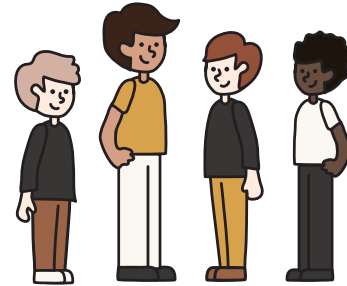
Use adjectives to **compare** people, places, or things.

For 2 nouns, use **comparative adjectives**.



Jim is **taller than** Sue.

For 3 or more nouns, use **superlative adjectives**.



Jim is **the tallest** boy in our class.

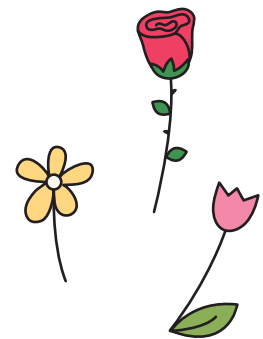
How are superlative adjectives formed?

Superlative Adjectives	Form	Example
one syllable	<i>the + Adj + -est</i>	<i>the + old + -est = the oldest</i>
two syllables ending in -y	<i>the + Adj (-y changes to -i) + -est</i>	<i>the + happy + -est = the happiest</i>
two syllables (not ending in -y)	<i>the + most + Adj</i>	<i>the + most + famous = the most famous</i>
three (or more) syllables	<i>the + most + Adj</i>	<i>the + most + beautiful = the most beautiful</i>

1 Grammar Notes cont.

A. Introduction cont.

What follows a superlative adjective + noun?	
Word/Phrase	Example
X	That was the best movie!
in a group	She is the smartest girl in the class.
of a group	This rose is the most beautiful of all the flowers.
ever	This is the funniest show I've ever seen.



B. Take Note!

Note #1

Some two-syllable adjectives don't follow the normal rules.

For example, we can say *the friendliest* or *the most friendly* and *the simplest* or *the most simple*.

Other such adjectives include *angry*, *cruel*, *handsome*, *gentle*, and *quiet*.

Note #2

Participial adjectives (-ed or -ing adjectives) are always formed with **the most + adjective**. Do not use -est even if the adjective has only one syllable.

For example, we must say *the most bored*, *the most tired*, *the most exciting*, and *the most interesting*.

Note #3

Irregular superlative adjectives include:

- good → the best
- bad → the worst
- far → the farthest/furthest

2 Adjective Formation

Write the superlative form beside each adjective.

#	Adjective	Superlative Adjective	#	Adjective	Superlative Adjective
Ex	intelligent	the most intelligent	10	pretty	
1	hungry		11	tall	
2	big		12	interesting	
3	large		13	bored	
4	simple		14	high	
5	old		15	far	
6	comfortable		16	sleepy	
7	good		17	friendly	
8	tasty		18	bad	
9	quiet		19	exciting	

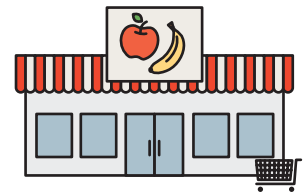
3 Fill in the Blanks

Write the superlative form of the adjective in the blanks.

Ex She has the most beautiful hair I've ever seen.
(beautiful)

1 Mount Everest is _____ mountain in the world.
(high)

2 This is _____ score I've ever had on an exam.
(bad)



3 Of all the grocery stores, this one is _____.
(busy)

4 Our house is _____ one on the street.
(modern)



5 Which country is _____ in the world?
(hot)

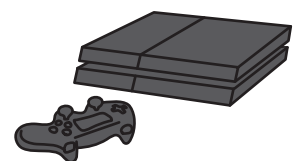
6 He is _____ person in the class.
(tall)



7 My friend is _____ person on the team.
(young)

8 She has _____ clothes of all the students in the class.
(fashionable)

9 This is _____ video game!
(good)



4 Spot the Errors

Find the error in each of the following sentences.
Rewrite the correct sentences.

Ex My sister has the longest hair in our family.

My sister has the longest hair in our family.

1 This is the most messy room I've ever seen.

2 Antarctica the coldest continent on the planet.

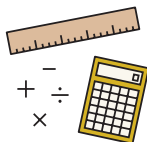
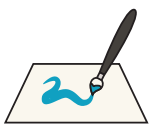
3 Who collected the biggest amount of money?

4 She thinks math is most interesting subject in school.

5 What is the goodest pizza topping?

6 Of all the dogs in this dog park, mine is the most cute.

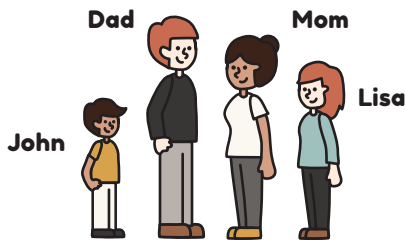
7 That was the most funny movie!



5 Comparisons

Discuss the images with a partner, and then write a sentence using a superlative adjective.

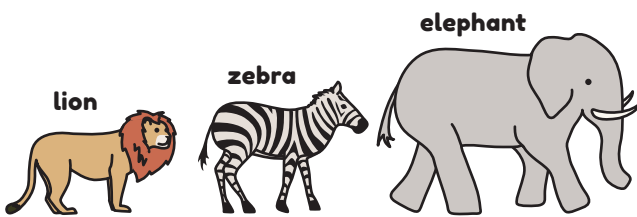
Ex



short / person / family

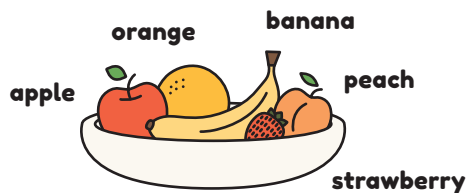
John is the shortest person in the family.

1



furry / animal / zoo

2



juicy / fruit / bowl

3



clean / vehicle / street

4



delicious / food / table

6 Group Work

Walk around your classroom and talk to your classmates.



#	Question	Name
1	Who has the shortest hair?	
2	Who has the widest smile?	
3	Who has the biggest backpack?	
4	Who is the tallest?	
5	Who feels the most tired today?	
6	Who is the best soccer player?	
7	Who is the loudest singer?	
8	Who has the most interesting hobby?	

A Answer Key

Lesson Description:

In this lesson, students study the form and use of superlative adjectives. They practice making comparisons through speaking, writing, and group work exercises, and they also review common spelling rules.

Level: Int

Time: 2–3 hours

Tags: adjectives, superlative adjectives, comparing, the most, *-est*, grammar, grammar practice, fun grammar lessons

2 Adjective Formation

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. the hungriest | 11. the tallest |
| 2. the biggest | 12. the most interesting |
| 3. the largest | 13. the most bored |
| 4. the most simple /
the simplest | 14. the highest |
| 5. the oldest | 15. the farthest /
the furthest* |
| 6. the most comfortable | 16. the sleepiest |
| 7. the best | 17. the most friendly /
the friendliest |
| 8. the tastiest | 18. the worst |
| 9. the most quiet /
the quietest | 19. the most exciting |
| 10. the prettiest | |

*We generally use *farthest* for physical distance and *furthest* for the greatest degree.

3 Fill in the Blanks

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the highest | 6. the tallest |
| 2. the worst | 7. the youngest |
| 3. the busiest | 8. the most fashionable |
| 4. the most modern | 9. the best |
| 5. the hottest | |

4 Spot the Errors

- This is the **messiest** room I've ever seen.
- Antarctica is the **colddest** continent on the planet.
- Who collected the **biggest** amount of money?
- She thinks math is **the** most interesting subject in school.
- What is the **best** pizza topping?
- Of all the dogs in this dog park, mine is the **cutest**.
- That was the **funniest** movie!

(continued on the next page...)

A Answer Key cont.

5 Comparisons

Answers will vary. Example answers:

1. The lion is the furriest animal in the zoo.
2. The orange is the juiciest fruit in the bowl.
3. The car is the cleanest vehicle on the street.
4. The piece of cake is the most delicious food on the table.

6 Group Work

Class activity. Answers will vary.

Editor's Note:

If your students aren't familiar with the spelling rules associated with superlative adjective formation, please go over the printable handout with them on page 11.

B Spelling Rules

When we add *-est* to the end of an adjective, we must follow certain spelling rules.

Syllables	Rule	Examples
1	If the adjective ends in <i>-e</i> , add <i>-st</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close → the closest • late → the latest • strange → the strangest
1	If the adjective ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern, double the final consonant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • big → the biggest • hot → the hottest • thin → the thinnest
2	If the adjective ends in <i>-y</i> , change <i>-y</i> to <i>-i</i> and add <i>-est</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • happy → the happiest • silly → the silliest • busy → the busiest