

the oldest the most expensive

A



Box A is **bigger than** Box B.

Box A is **bigger than** all the other boxes.

Box A is **the biggest** box.

HOTEL PRICES IN KINTON

(Per room per night)

Europa Hotel	£150	Grosvenor	£110
Grand Hotel	£130	Bennets	£100
Royal	£120	Carlton	£98
Astoria	£115	Star	£85
Palace	£115	Station	£75

The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** the Grand.

The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** all the other hotels in the city.

The Europa Hotel is **the most expensive** hotel in the city.

Bigger and **more expensive** etc. are *comparative* forms (→ Unit 87).

Biggest and **most expensive** etc. are *superlative* forms.

B

The superlative form is **-est** (**oldest**) or **most ...** (**most expensive**).

Short words (**old/cheap/nice** etc.) → **the -est**:

old → **the oldest** cheap → **the cheapest** nice → **the nicest**
 but good → **the best** bad → **the worst**

Spelling (→ Appendix 5): big → **the biggest** hot → **the hottest**

Words ending in **-y** (**easy/heavy** etc.) → **the -iest**:

easy → **the easiest** heavy → **the heaviest** pretty → **the prettiest**

Long words (**careful/expensive/interesting** etc.) → **the most ...**:

careful → **the most careful** interesting → **the most interesting**

C

We say **the oldest ...** / **the most expensive ...** etc. (with **the**):

- ☐ The church is very old. It's **the oldest** building in the town.
(= it is **older than** all the other buildings)
- ☐ What is **the longest** river in the world?
- ☐ Money is important, but it isn't **the most important** thing in life.
- ☐ Excuse me, where is **the nearest** bank?

D

You can use **the oldest** / **the best** / **the most expensive** etc. without a noun:

- ☐ Luke is a good player, but he isn't **the best** in the team.
(**the best** = the best player)

E

You can use *superlative* + **I've ever ...** / **you've ever ...** etc.:

- ☐ The film was very bad. I think it's **the worst** film **I've ever seen**.
- ☐ What is **the most unusual** thing **you've ever done**?

Exercises

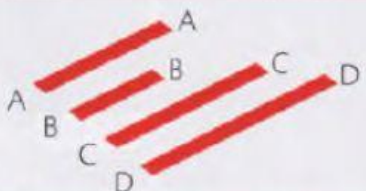
Unit
90

90.1 Write sentences with comparatives (**older** etc.) and superlatives (**the oldest** etc.).

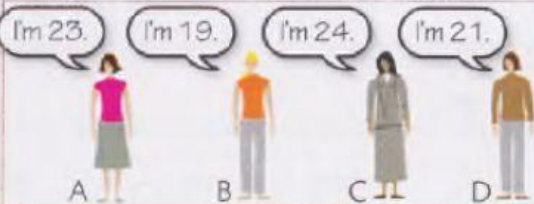
1



2



3



4



5

Restaurant A, Excellent
Restaurant B, Not bad
Restaurant C, Good but not wonderful
Restaurant D, Awful

big/small

(A/D)

A is bigger than D.

(A)

A is the biggest.

(B)

B is the smallest.

long/short

(C/A)

C is A.

(D)

D is

(B)

B is

young/old

(D/C)

D is

(B)

B is

(C)

C is

expensive/cheap

(D/A)

D is A.

(C)

C is

(A)

A is

good/bad

(A/C)

A is C.

(A)

A is

(D)

D is

90.2 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (**the oldest** etc.).

- This building is very old. It's the oldest building in the town.
- It was a very happy day. It was of my life.
- It's a very good film. It's I've ever seen.
- She's a very popular singer. She's in the country.
- It was a very bad mistake. It was I've ever made.
- It's a very pretty village. It's I've ever seen.
- It was a very cold day. It was of the year.
- He's a very boring person. He's I've ever met.

90.3 Write sentences with a superlative (**the longest** etc.). Choose from the boxes.

~~Sydney~~
Everest
Brazil

Alaska
the Nile
Jupiter

high
large
long

country
~~city~~
mountain

river
state
planet

Africa
~~Australia~~
the USA

South America
the world
the solar system

- Sydney is the largest city in Australia.
- Everest
-
-
-
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