

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

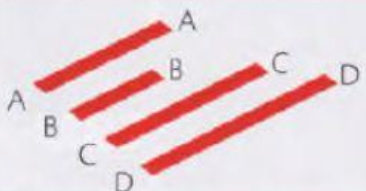
You can use *superlative* + **I've ever ... / you've ever ...** etc. :

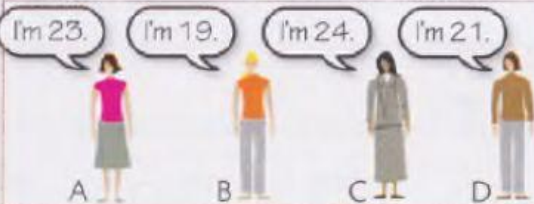
- The film was very bad. I think it's **the worst** film **I've ever seen**.
- What is **the most unusual** thing **you've ever done**?

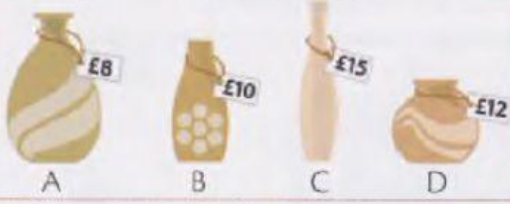
Exercises

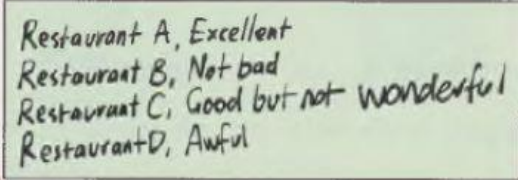
90.1 Write sentences with comparatives (**older** etc.) and superlatives (**the oldest** etc.).

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

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

young/old
(D/C) D
(B)
(C)

expensive/cheap
(D/A)
(C)
(A)

good/bad
(A/C)
(A)
(D)

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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