EZ Speakers II
Lesson 19.3

goals Superlative adjectives
High numbers

1 LISTENING

a 💬 Ask and answer the questions.

1 Which languages can you speak?
2 Which languages would you like to learn?
3 Look at the languages in the box. Where do people speak these languages?

Greek Italian English French Arabic Basque
Japanese Mandarin Chinese Russian Spanish

b ▶3.41 Listen to Professor Ryan Hunter talking about languages on the radio. Tick (✓) the languages in 1a that he talks about.

c ▶3.41 Match sentences 1–4 with the languages Professor Hunter talks about. Listen and check your answers.

1 He thinks it's a very beautiful language.
2 It's a difficult language for English speakers, but not for Mandarin Chinese speakers.
3 Many people think it's very easy.
4 Over 900 million people speak it.

d ▶3.41 Listen again and answer the questions.

1 What was the first language Professor Hunter learned?
2 How many languages can he speak?
3 Where do people speak Basque?
4 How much of the world's population speak Mandarin Chinese?

e 💬 Choose one thing Professor Hunter said which you think is:
a interesting   b surprising.

2 GRAMMAR Superlative adjectives

a ▶3.42 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Listen and check your answers.

best easiest musical biggest hardest

1 Signora Monti was the _____ teacher at my school.
2 Italian is the most _____ language I know.
3 The _____ language to learn is Basque.
4 Spanish is the _____ language to learn.
5 China has the _____ population in the world.

b Read the sentences below and put the languages in order (1 = very easy, 4 = very difficult).

For me, **French** is easier than **Japanese**. But people say that **Spanish** is the easiest language in the world and **Basque** is the most difficult.

c Think about your own language. What number do you think it has (1= very easy, 4 = very difficult)?

d Look at the sentences in 2a. Then complete the rules and the examples.

1 Short adjectives (e.g. *hard*) add _____
   small ➔ _____
2 Write _____ before long adjectives (e.g. *musical*)
   expensive ➔ _____ expensive
3 Some adjectives are irregular (e.g. *good, bad*)
   good ➔ the _____
   bad ➔ the worst

f ▶3.44 **Pronunciation** Listen to these phrases. Notice how the words are stressed.

the biggest   the easiest   the hardest

g ▶3.45 Listen to these questions. Where's the main stress: on *most* or on the adjective?

What's the most beautiful language in the world?
What's the most useful language to speak?
What's the most difficult language in the world?