Superlative Adjectives

Introduction

When we want to compare two things in English, we use comparative adjectives. An example of a comparative sentence is '*Tom is taller than Sam*'. When we want to compare more than two things or one thing with others in its group, we use the superlative form of the adjective.

Study the table and examples below:

subject pronoun / noun	+ be	+ the	+ superlative adjective	+ ____.
I / you / Anna/she etc.	am / are / is	the	tallest	girl in the class.



To form a superlative sentence, the general rules is to add **-est** to the adjective and put ***the*** in front of the adjective.

Look at the image and example below:

- *My dad is **the** tall**est** person in my family. (adjective = tall)*

Ex 1: Complete the gaps with the superlative form of the adjective shown.

1. Tom is ____ _____ boy in my class. **[tall]**
2. Algebra is ____ _____ subject for me to study. **[hard]**
3. Antarctica is ____ _____ place in the world. **[cold]**
4. The Nile is ____ _____ river in the world. **[long]**



Ex 2: Write superlative sentences using the information shown.

1. the giraffe / animal in the world **[tall]** _____.
2. the kitchen / place in the house **[warm]** _____.
3. Burj Khalifa / building in the world **[high]** _____.
4. the burger / item on the menu **[cheap]** _____.

Types of adjectives: ➡

We simply add **-est** for many adjectives, but it isn't always so easy. When we form comparatives or superlatives, there are six types of adjectives we need to know about, with different rules for each.

1. adjectives with one syllable **[tall]**
2. adjectives ending with '**e**' **[nice]**
3. adjectives ending consonant-vowel-consonant **[big]** (c-v-c)
4. adjectives ending with '**y**' **[happy]**
5. adjectives with two or more syllables **[in-tell-i-gent]**
6. irregular adjectives **[good]**

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Forming superlatives with different types of adjectives:

Rule:	Adjective:	Superlative:
For adjectives with **one syllable**, add **-est** to make the superlative.	fast light clean	**the** fast**est** **the** light**est** **the** clean**est**  *The cheetah is the fastest animal on land.*
For adjectives **ending with *'e'***, add **-st** to make the superlative.	nice cute wide	**the** nice**st** **the** cute**st** **the** wide**st** *I think Labradors are the cutest of all dogs.*
For adjectives ending **consonant-vowel-consonant**, double the consonant and add **-est** to make the superlative.	big hot fat	**the** big**gest** **the** hot**test** **the** fat**test**  *Russia is the biggest country in the world.*
For adjectives **ending with *'y'***, drop the *'y'* and add **-iest** to make the superlative.	happy silly lonely	**the** happ**iest** **the** sill**iest** **the** lonel**iest** *My wedding day was the happiest day of my life.*
For adjectives with **two syllables or more** (not ending in *'y'*), use **most** before the adjective to make the superlative. **Don't** change the adjective!	modern interesting beautiful	**the most** modern **the most** interesting **the most** beautiful *Paris is the most beautiful city in the world.*
There are some **irregular adjectives** which have very different superlative forms. They are very common, so make sure you study them.	good bad far little many	**the** best **the** worst **the** furthest/farthest. **the** least **the** most  *I got the best test results in the class today.*

Ex 3: Cover the table and write the superlative forms of these adjectives.

1. hungry _____.
2. sad _____.
3. good _____.
4. cold _____.
5. wide _____.
6. lazy _____.
7. interesting _____.
8. popular _____.
9. bad _____.
10. sweet _____.
11. easy _____.
12. fat _____.
13. nice _____.
14. far _____.
15. thin _____.

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Additional considerations when making superlative sentences.

We can use possessive adjectives in place of **'the'** in superlative sentences. The possessive adjectives are:

my / your / his / her / its / our / your / their

Look at the examples on the right.

- *Jennifer is my best friend.*
- *That's their nicest dish.*
- *I think that's her most interesting book.*
- *Peter is my youngest child.*

We often use **'in'** and **'of'** in superlative sentences. We use **'in'** to talk about a group or place which contains the group. We use **'of'** when we say the number of members in a group or with **'all'** + the group.

Look at the examples on the right.

- *Dad is the bravest person **in** my family.*
- *Jessica is the smartest girl **in** the class.*
- *The Vatican is the smallest country **in** the world.*
- *John is the tallest **of** the three boys.*
- *Peter is the youngest **of** all the children.*

Ex 4: Decide if the following sentences are correct or not and correct the wrong ones.

1. That's the most expensive dish on the menu. ☐ _____.
2. Spanish is the easyest language to learn. ☐ _____.
3. These trousers are the most biggest we have. ☐ _____.
4. Rabbits are the cutest animals in the world. ☐ _____.
5. Spain is the hotest of the three countries. ☐ _____.
6. This is best restaurant in the city. ☐ _____.
7. Paris is the most beautiful city of the world. ☐ _____.

Ex 5: Write superlative sentences using the information shown.

1. biology / subject on my course **[interesting]** _____.
2. my sister / person I know **[nice]** _____.
3. the steak / item on the menu **[expensive]** _____.
4. my brother / person in my family **[lazy]** _____.
5. Japanese / language to learn **[difficult]** _____.
6. True Detective / crime series on Netflix **[good]** _____.
7. Spain / country in Europe **[hot]** _____.

Let's revise what we have learnt.

- ✓ When we want to compare more than two things or compare one thing to others in its group, we use the superlative form of the adjective.
- ✓ To form a superlative, the general rule is to add **-est** to the adjective and put **'the'** before the adjective.
- ✓ The form the superlative takes depends on the type of adjective. There are six types of adjective.
- ✓ We can use possessive adjectives in place of **'the'** in superlative sentences.
- ✓ We often use the prepositions **'in'** and **'of'** in superlative sentences.

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