

# Are you working too hard?

## Superlative forms

We use the superlative form to compare three or more things.  
*Munich is the most expensive / the cheapest of the six cities.*

| Category                | Example   | Superlative          |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| One-syllable adjectives | cheap     | (the) cheapest       |
|                         | small     | (the) smallest       |
| Two syllables ending -y | easy      | (the) easiest        |
| Two or more syllables   | expensive | (the) most expensive |
| Irregular adjectives    | good      | (the) best           |
|                         | bad       | (the) worst          |

1 Complete the questions with the superlative form of the adjective indicated, as in the example.

- What's the most important thing in your life? (important)
- What's the ..... thing in your life? (stressful)
- What's the ..... time you start work in the morning? (early)
- What's the ..... time you finish work in the evening? (late)
- What is your ..... meal of the day? (big)
- When is the ..... time of day to have a meeting with colleagues? (good)
- What's the ..... time to call you for business? (bad)
- On holiday, what's the ..... thing to take with you? (important)

2 Match 1–8 in 1 with A–H below to complete the questionnaire, as in the example. Then choose your own answer to each question.

## Are You Working too Hard?

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>A Question</b></p> <p>a After 6 p.m. when the telephone stops ringing.</p> <p>b In the morning.</p> <p>c In the afternoon.</p> <p>d I don't have time for meetings.</p> <p><b>B Question</b></p> <p>a 6 a.m. or earlier.</p> <p>b Between 7 and 8 a.m.</p> <p>c Between 8 and 9 a.m.</p> <p>d 9 a.m. or later.</p> <p><b>C Question</b></p> <p>a My job.</p> <p>b My company.</p> <p>c My family and/or friends.</p> <p>d My health.</p> <p><b>D Question</b></p> <p>a Family holidays.</p> <p>b Not enough time to do my job well.</p> <p>c Travelling to work.</p> <p>d Learning English.</p> | <p><b>E Question</b></p> <p>a At home in the evening.</p> <p>b Phone me when you want. If it's important, I want to know.</p> <p>c At weekends.</p> <p>d When I'm on holiday.</p> <p><b>F Question</b></p> <p>a My computer.</p> <p>b My mobile phone.</p> <p>c Sun cream and sunglasses.</p> <p>d Some paperwork from the office.</p> <p><b>G Question</b></p> <p>a 6 p.m. or earlier.</p> <p>b Between 7 and 8 p.m.</p> <p>c between 8 and 9 p.m.</p> <p>d 9 p.m. or later.</p> <p><b>H Question</b></p> <p>a Lunch.</p> <p>b Dinner.</p> <p>c Breakfast.</p> <p>d I don't have a big meal. I have little snacks when I have time.</p> |
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Use the table to calculate your score.

|    |       |       |       |       |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Q1 | a = 3 | b = 4 | c = 0 | d = 1 |
| Q2 | a = 4 | b = 2 | c = 2 | d = 1 |
| Q3 | a = 4 | b = 3 | c = 2 | d = 1 |
| Q4 | a = 1 | b = 2 | c = 3 | d = 4 |
| Q5 | a = 0 | b = 3 | c = 2 | d = 4 |
| Q6 | a = 3 | b = 0 | c = 0 | d = 4 |
| Q7 | a = 0 | b = 4 | c = 0 | d = 0 |
| Q8 | a = 4 | b = 3 | c = 0 | d = 4 |

What was your score?

- Less than 10* You have a nice relaxed life – at home and at work.
- 10 – 18* You work hard, but you know when to stop.
- 19 – 27* Be careful. If you take on more work, you'll be very stressed.
- 28 – 32* Oh dear! Time to take a long holiday.