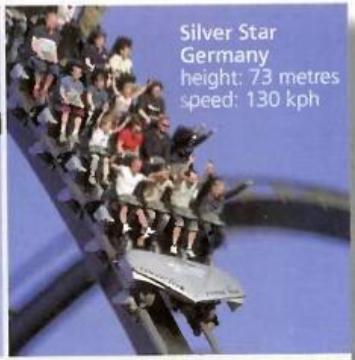


31 Superlative adjectives



Lots of people enjoy going on roller coasters. Kingda Ka is the highest and the fastest. But many people think Eejanaika is the most exciting roller coaster in the world.

1 Form

To make superlative adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	→	SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVE
most short adjectives (1 syllable)	add -est	small → smallest, young → youngest, high → highest, fast → fastest
adjectives that end in -e	add -st	late → latest, nice → nicest, wide → widest
adjectives that end in vowel + consonant, e.g. -ig, -at, -ot, -in	add another consonant + -est	big → biggest, fat → fattest, hot → hottest, thin → thinnest
adjectives that end in -y	change y to i and add -est	dry → driest, happy → happiest, early → earliest

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For most adjectives with two or more syllables (e.g. *useful, difficult, expensive*) we use *the most* + adjective:

Eejanaika is the most exciting roller coaster. My mobile phone is the most useful thing I own.

The opposite of *the most* is *the least*. We usually use *the least* with adjectives with two or more syllables: *Excuse me. Which is the least expensive phone you sell?*



These adjectives have irregular superlative forms:

bad → *worst*, *good* → *best*, *far* → *farthest/furthest*

~~*✗ He's the most good student in the class.*~~ ✓ *He's the best student in the class.*

2 Use

We use superlative adjectives when we compare one person/thing with several others.



We use *the* before superlative adjectives:

~~*✗ Kingda Ka is fastest roller coaster.*~~ ✓ *Kingda Ka is the fastest roller coaster.*



After superlative adjectives we use *in* before the names of places and groups:

~~*✗ Eejanaika is the most exciting roller coaster of the world.*~~

✓ *Eejanaika is the most exciting roller coaster in the world.*

We can also use *my/your/his*, etc. before superlative adjectives:

Jenny is my oldest friend. What is your happiest memory?

We often use superlative adjectives + *I've ever ..., you've ever ..., etc.* to talk about our experiences:

That was the best book I've ever read. What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?

Practice

1 Write the missing words in the box. Then complete the sentences below. Use some of the words from the box.

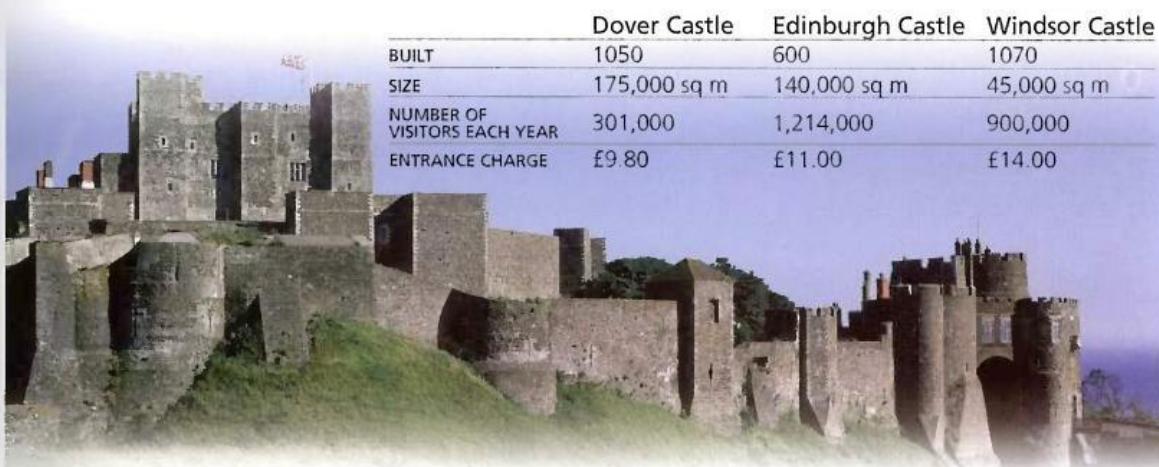
adjective	fast	friendly	happy		late	dry		bad	far
superlative	fastest			nicest			best		

Complete these sentences.

- 0 That was the *worst* meal I've ever eaten. It was disgusting!
- 1 July is usually the month in my country. It never rains then.
- 2 Milo is the student in my class. He talks to everybody.
- 3 Neptune is the planet from the sun.
- 4 The time you can arrive is six o'clock. We close the doors after that.

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the information about three British castles. Complete the questions with a superlative form of the adjectives in brackets (). Then answer the questions.

	Dover Castle	Edinburgh Castle	Windsor Castle
BUILT	1050	600	1070
SIZE	175,000 sq m	140,000 sq m	45,000 sq m
NUMBER OF VISITORS EACH YEAR	301,000	1,214,000	900,000
ENTRANCE CHARGE	£9.80	£11.00	£14.00



- 0 Which is *the most expensive* (expensive) castle to visit? *Windsor Castle*
- 1 Which is *(old)* castle?
- 2 Which castle is *(popular)*?
- 3 Which castle is *(small)*?
- 4 Which castle is *(big)*?
- 5 Which castle has *(low)* entrance charge?

3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Choose the correct words in *italics* in the conversation.

LOUIS So, Carol. Did you enjoy your holiday?

CAROL Yes. It was the (0) *better* / *best* holiday I've ever had!

LOUIS Really? What was the (1) *most good* / *best* part?

CAROL Well, the hotel was fantastic, but the coast was really beautiful.

LOUIS And what was the (2) *most beautiful* / *beautifulest* place?

CAROL Definitely the beach. It was the (3) *most warm* / *warmest* water I've ever swum in. And there were some good restaurants in the town. The Thai restaurant was (4) *nicest* / *the nicest* one, although it was the (5) *furthest* / *most far* from the hotel.

LOUIS Was that the best one (6) *in* / *of* the town?

CAROL Yes, and it was the (7) *less* / *least* expensive one there! The Italian restaurant was the (8) *most* / *more* expensive one, but it wasn't very nice.