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Adjectives can have **superlative** forms. They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects. Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (*the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest*).



via <https://learningwithdianacom.wordpress.com/comparativo-de-superioridad-e-inferioridad/>
In this example, '*the smallest*' is the superlative form of the adjective '*small*'.

We usually use '**the**' before superlative adjective forms:

- *Michael is **the tallest** player on our team.*
- *Of all her friends, Emily is **the nicest**.*
- *This is **the best** restaurant in town. Their pizzas are the biggest and the most delicious.*

How to form superlative adjectives

As with [comparative](#) adjectives, there are two ways to form a **superlative adjective**:

- **short** adjectives: add “**-est**”
- **long** adjectives: use “**most**”

Short adjectives

To make superlative forms of most one- and two-syllable adjectives, add ‘**-est**’ to them:

- *Fast* → *The cheetah is **the fastest** animal in the world.*
- *Old* → *John is **the oldest** son in his family.*
- *Low* → *This is **the lowest** point of the valley.*

1. If the adjective ends in ‘**e**’, just add ‘**-st**’:

- *Large* → *My house is **the largest** one in our neighborhood.*
- *Fast* → *Your dog ran **the fastest** of any dog in the race.*

2. If an adjective ends in *one vowel* and *one consonant*, **double** the consonant before ‘**-est**’:

- *Big* → *Whales are **the biggest** mammals.*
- *Hot* → *This has been **the hottest** day of the summer.*

3. For two-syllable adjectives ending in ‘**-y**’, remove the ‘**-y**’ and add ‘**-iest**’:

- *Happy* → *It’s my birthday, and I’m **the happiest** person in the world.*
- *Early* → *When does **the earliest** train from London arrive?*

Long adjectives

To make superlative forms of long adjectives (three syllables and more), use ‘**the most**’ + adjective:

- *This is **the most beautiful** sunset I’ve ever seen.*
- *Sport cars are **the most expensive** vehicles.*

Irregular adjectives

Some common short adjectives have irregular forms:

- *Good* → *better* → *This is **the best** movie I've ever seen.*
- *Bad* → *worse* → ***The worst** things always happen unexpectedly.*
- *Far* → *further* → *Tom dreams about visiting **the furthest** corners of the Earth.*

How to use superlative adjectives

We use a superlative adjective to describe one thing in a group of three or more things.

- *Mount Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world.*

1. The opposite of 'most' is '**least**'. Use 'least' before long adjectives:

- *This region is **the least comfortable** for leaving.*
- *The first two chapters were **the least interesting** in the whole book.*

2. To show that the superlative adjective belongs to a group of similar things, use '**one of**':

- *Shanghai is **one of the biggest** cities in the world.*
- *The Miniature Pinscher is **one of the smallest** dogs.*

3. We can use superlative adjectives without a noun:

- *These flowers are not very expensive, but they are **the most beautiful**.*
- *You wouldn't find any other prices, these are **the lowest**.*

4. When we compare one thing with itself, we do not use 'the':

- *England is **coldest** in winter. (not the coldest)*

See also:

Adjectives: Comparative Structures

Superlative Adverbs