

Have you noticed that most superlative adjectives use the definite article *the*? That's because only one thing can be at the top of its category, so we use *the* to show we're talking about one specific thing.

*“Continuous learning is **the most essential** skill for a developer.”*



However, instead of *the*, you can also use a possessive adjective like *my* and *their* or a possessive noun like *teacher's* and *Cody's*.

*“Meeting client expectations is **our highest** priority.”*

*“Problem-solving skill is **my most valuable** asset.”*



When to use **most** with superlative adjectives

One key to knowing how to use superlative adjectives is understanding when to use the suffix *-est* and when to use the adverb *most*. In general, short adjectives use *-est* and long ones use *most*, but the details get a little more precise.

Specifically, use the word *most* for:

- All adjectives with three or more syllables
- Adjectives with two syllables **except** those that end in **-er**, **-ow**, **-le**, or **-y**