5 spelling rules for forming superlative adjectives

1. One-syllable adjectives

If an adjective has only one syllable, most of the time you can simply add the suffix -est to the end of the word without changing the spelling.

cool -> coolest small -> smallest



2. One-syllable adjectives ending in -e

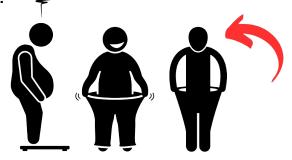
You don't need to add another e if a one-syllable adjective already ends in -e. Just add -st to the end.

cute -> cutest free -> freest

3. One-syllable adjectives ending in consonant-vowel-consonant

If the last three letters of a one-syllable adjective follow a consonantvowel-consonant format, like big or thin, you have to double the last consonant and then add -est.

big -> biggest thin -> thinnest



One- or two-syllable adjectives ending in -y

Adjectives with either one or two syllables have special spelling rules if they end in -y. To make the superlative, first change the y into an i and then add -est.

dry -> driest likely -> likeliest