

GRAMMAR

The superlative of adjectives

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2043G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can use the superlative form of adjectives.
- I can form sentences with superlative adjectives.



These rooms are bright. That room is brighter. This room is the **brightest!**





Forming the superlative

When something is **superlative** it means that it is the **greatest** within a set group of nouns.

We add **-est** to form the superlative and also use the definite article **the** in order to separate the noun from the rest of its group.

adjective	superlative
big	the biggest
smart	the smartest
cold	the coldest
long	the longest
strict	the strictest



Change **-y** to **-i**

If the word ends in **-y**, we change it to **-i** and then add **-est**.

adjective	comparative	superlative
lazy	lazier	the lazi est
noisy	nois ier	the noisi est
messy	mess ier	the mess iest
tidy	tid ier	the tidi est

Comparative or superlative?



1

brighter

2

smaller

3

the biggest

4

darker

5

the darkest

6

the brightest

7

bigger

8

the smallest

Comparative

Superlative



Comparative or superlative?

1 My sister has two children. Her son is _____ than her daughter.

a. older

b. oldest

2 There are three rooms in the office. The storage room is the _____.

a. darker

b. darkest

3 Steve's house has a garden and a balcony. The balcony is _____ than the garden.

a. bigger

b. biggest

4 I moved to the countryside because I wanted to live in a _____ town.

a. smaller

b. smallest

5 Of all the books I have ever read, this one was the _____.

a. funnier

b. funniest



Comparative or superlative?

1 My dog is the _____ dog in the neighbourhood

a. bigger

b. smallest

2 You have the _____ voice in the entire class.

a. loudest

b. longest

3 Yesterday I travelled from Thailand to New York. It was the _____ journey I've ever made.

a. biggest

b. longest



Comparative or superlative?

Tick **c** for comparative or **s** for superlative.

		c	s
1	That is the noisiest baby!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	This apartment is quieter than that one.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Those are the messiest bedrooms!	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Your house is tidier than my house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	My kitchen is brighter than my bathroom.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Practise saying these words

noisiest

messiest

tidiest

darkest





Transform the sentences

Create superlative sentences using the same adjective.

1 This bedroom is messy.



This bedroom is the messiest.

2 That bedroom is tidy.



3 This flat is noisy.



4 Your dog is cute.



5 My mobile phone is new.



6 These flowers are nice.





Complete the sentences

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **finish** the sentences with a **superlative** of your choice.

1 I love this film. It's the...

2 These flowers are the...

3 New York is the...

4 Antarctica is the...

5 Their cat is the...





Using *most*

For longer words, we use **the most** and we don't add **-est**.

adjective	comparative	superlative
cheap	cheaper	the cheapest
expensive	more expensive	the most expensive
traditional	more traditional	the most traditional
contemporary	more contemporary	the most contemporary



Using *least*

We also use **least** to form superlatives.

adjective	comparative	superlative
cheap	cheaper	the cheapest
expensive	less expensive	the least expensive
traditional	less traditional	the least traditional
contemporary	less contemporary	the least contemporary



Superlative endings

Categorise the adjectives according to their ending in the **superlative**.



1

expensive

2

quiet

3

cheap

4

dark

5

messy

6

bright

7

noisy

8

traditional

9

contemporary

-est

-iest

most



Adjectives

nice



That is **the nicest** view I've ever seen!

quiet



She is **the quietest** student in the class



Adjectives

expensive



This is **the most expensive** computer I've ever bought.

fast



I am **the fastest**!

bright



This is **the brightest** room in my house.



That car is more
affordable than this
one.

If something is **affordable**, it is not
expensive.



Compare the rooms

Use **comparative** and **superlative adjectives** to compare these rooms.





Jack and Jane

1. **Read** the text.
2. Then **answer** the questions with a partner.

Jack: I'm the best baker in the whole family!

Jane: No you're not. I'm the best. I always make the tastiest cakes!

Jack: Your cakes aren't tasty at all. And you always make a mess in the kitchen. You are the messiest person I know!

Jane: That's the biggest lie I've ever heard. I am much tidier than you. Your bedroom is the messiest room in the whole house.

Jack: Stay out of my bedroom!



1. Who is messier, Jack or Jane?
2. Whose bedroom is the messiest in the house?



Your family

Talk about your family using the adjectives on this page and phrases from the dialogue on **P.19** to help you.

My brother is the messiest...

messiest

loudest

funniest

My dad is the loudest...

smaller

nicest

bigger

My mum is the funniest...

happier

cuter

most interesting



End of the lesson

Idiom

to make the most of something

Meaning: to enjoy something as much as possible

Example: We're only here for one more day, so let's make the most of it.



Additional practice



Complete the table

bigger	_____
_____	the most expensive
nicer	_____
_____	the messiest
tidier	_____
_____	the most traditional
more contemporary	_____
_____	the cheapest
quieter	_____





Fill in the blanks

I have three children, Ed, Ellen and Elsa.
Elsa is the _____, I never hear her! Ed
makes the _____ cakes, but Ellen
thinks her cakes are _____. Ellen is the
_____. She makes us laugh a lot. I
think Ed is the _____. His bedroom is
always full of stuff. Elsa is the _____.
Her bedroom is the nicest!



better

tidiest

quietest

funniest

tastiest

messiest



Make sentences

Use the words in the pink boxes to make sentences about the pictures.

- nicest
- happiest
- most delicious



- messiest
- warmest
- coldest

1



2



3



4



5





Writing

Write four sentences about the rooms in your house using superlative adjectives. You can use the questions to help you or think of your own sentences.

Which room is the tidiest?
Which room is the messiest?
Which room is the most contemporary?
Which room is the nicest?





Answer key

P.6: Comparative: brighter, smaller, darker, bigger. Superlative: the biggest, the darkest, the brightest, the smallest

P.7: 1) a, 2) b, 3) a, 4) a, 5) b

P.8: 1) b, 2) a, 3) b

P.9: 1) S, 2) C, 3) S, 4) C, 5) C

P.11: 2) That bedroom is the tidiest. 3) This flat is the noisiest. 4) Your dog is the cutest. 5) My mobile phone is the newest. 6) These flowers are the nicest.

P.15: -est: quiet, cheap, dark, bright. -iest: messy, noisy. most: expensive, traditional, contemporary



Answer key

P.25: the biggest, more expensive, the nicest, messier, the tidiest, more traditional, the most contemporary, cheaper, the quietest

P.26: quietest, tastiest, better, funniest, messiest, tidiest





Summary

Forming the superlative:

- We add **-est** to form the superlative and also use the definite article **the** in order to separate the noun from the rest of its group, e.g. *the biggest, the smallest*
- If the word ends in **-y**, we change it to **-i** and then add **-est**, e.g. *the messiest, the tidiest*

Forming the superlative:

- For longer words, we use **the most** and we don't add **-est**, e.g. *the most expensive, the most traditional*
- We also use **least** to form superlatives, e.g. *the least contemporary*

New adjectives:

- *nice, quiet, expensive, fast, bright*



Vocabulary

nice

quiet

expensive

fast

bright



Notes

