

**THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER**

# **COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES**

*ACT English: Problem Set*

Correct the comparative or superlative error(s) in the following sentences.

1. The toddler likes the slide the best between the five play areas at the playground.
2. Meghan and Tara are both skilled drummers, but Meghan has the most playing experience.
3. Unlike his band mates, Tim had never played a concert in front of thousands before – suffice it to say he was nervouser of all of them.
4. Between the two siblings, the elder is most responsible and most self-aware.
5. Of the four designs that were generated for this project, this one was the harder to brainstorm.
6. The theme park's many new rides are widely anticipated, but it is hard to gauge from the public response which one will draw more people.
7. New York's weather is unpredictable in the spring because it can be sunny then start raining at any moment – it's most advisable to bring an umbrella than not.
8. Among all four of Tasha's dogs, the Pomeranian is the more active.
9. At the end of the baking contest, the cake that was intricately decorated in gold leaf, an early favorite, ultimately didn't win because it was the least flavorful between the ten.
10. Although he doesn't have any neighbors on either side of the apartment, Joshua was warned by his landlord that if he and his guests were any loudest, he would be prohibited from signing guests into the building.
11. The screwdriver is more useful than any tool in a traditional workman's toolbox.
12. She is more talented than the rest of the girls in the class.

Choose the correct comparative or superlative from the following options.

1. Chelsea wasn't nervous before her driving lessons started, but on her first day she realized they were more trickier than she anticipated.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. much trickier then  
C. more trickier then  
D. much trickier than
2. A technique called recrystallization is used to purify a compound. Using appropriate solvents, impurities can crystallize quick and be removed from the solution, leaving behind pure compound.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. most quick  
C. faster  
D. more fast
3. The hummingbirds fly closely to their nests, which are perched on the shrubbery lining the back of the house.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. more close  
C. close  
D. near
4. To get to Big Sur, we drove on the Pacific Coast Highway for most of the route; however, there were spots when we parked on the side of the road to admire the view.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. mostly  
C. more  
D. the main
5. Teenagers need no fewer then 7 hours of sleep to perform optimally and be well rested.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. fewer than  
C. less then  
D. less
6. Of Florence's collection of 72 museums, The Uffizi Gallery recently garnered the higher ticket revenue, crowning it the most profitable museum in Italy.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. the more ticket  
C. the high ticket  
D. the highest ticket
7. Between the five interns hired for the fall semester, the design intern had to do the most work to help prepare the magazine layout for publication.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. Among the five interns  
C. In between the five interns  
D. Within the five interns
8. The Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain held every July to honor Saint Fermin is the most famous of annual bull runs around the world.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. the famouser  
C. the most fame  
D. the famous
9. Noah's opinion of the restaurant's two new dishes is constantly changing; first he said the bolognese was his favorite, now he claims the carbonara is better.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. the most better  
C. the most best  
D. the best
10. Of all the site-specific installations displayed around the gallery, the small glass elephant in the middle of the room drew the larger crowd.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. bigger  
C. largest  
D. more

ANSWER KEY

1. The toddler likes the slide the best **among** the five play areas at the playground. (In terms of comparisons, among is used when 3 or more things are compared, while between is used when two things are compared).
2. Meghan and Tara are both skilled drummers, but Meghan has **more** playing experience. (When only two people are mentioned, use MORE not MOST)
3. Unlike his band mates, Tim had never played a concert in front of thousands before – suffice it to say he was **the most nervous** of all of them. (Three or more subjects require MOST not MORE and two syllable or more words generally take “most”)
4. Between the two siblings, the elder is **more** responsible and **more** self-aware. (When only two people are mentioned, use MORE not MOST)
5. Of the four designs that were generated for this project, this one was the **hardest** to brainstorm. (Three or more subjects require MOST not MORE)
6. The theme park’s many new rides are widely anticipated, but it is hard to gauge from the public response which one will draw **the most** people. (Many implies more than two rides are new; thus we use the form MOST (3 or more compared items)).
7. New York’s weather is unpredictable in the spring because it can be sunny then start raining at any moment – it’s **more** advisable to bring an umbrella than not. (Than not provides a second alternative, so MORE is most appropriate.)
8. Among all four of Tasha’s dogs, the Pomeranian is the **most** active. (3 or more compared items take MOST).
9. At the end of the baking contest, the cake that was intricately decorated in gold leaf, an early favorite, ultimately didn’t win because it was the least flavorful **among** the ten.
10. Although he doesn’t have any neighbors on either side of the apartment, Joshua was warned by his landlord that if he and his guests were any **louder**, he would be prohibited from signing guests into the building.
11. The screwdriver is more useful than any **other** tool in a traditional workman’s toolbox. (When comparing something to a group it is a part of, you must say any “other” to distinguish that item from those you are comparing it to. Otherwise you are saying it is more useful than itself, because a screwdriver would be in a traditional toolbox).
12. No error. When you compare a person to an entire group (the rest) you use the “better” “more” or “-er” form of the comparison. “Than” triggers the “-er” comparison word.

**ANSWER KEY**

1. D    2. C    3. C    4. A    5. B    6. D    7. B    8. A    9. A    10. C

**ANSWER EXPLANATIONS**

1. D        “More” cannot be used with a comparative adjective ending in -er, so “more” must be replaced by “much.”
2. C        “Faster” is the best replacement for “quick” because it compares a difference between the speed at which impurities are removed during recrystallization and the speed at which they are removed without recrystallization. Use the “-er” form to compare two items.
3. C        The adjective “close” replaces “closely” because it does not describe how the hummingbirds fly; instead, it describes the fact that the birds fly NEAR the nests, or the place where the birds fly.
4. A        The sentence appropriately uses the superlative “most” to describe how much the speakers drove on a specific route.
5. B        The phrase “fewer then” should read “fewer than” because “than” completes the other half of the comparison. “Then” refers to time and should not be used in a comparison.
6. D        The correct superlative is “highest” because the Uffizi Gallery had the most ticket revenue out of 72 museums in Italy, a comparison of more than two things.
7. B        “Among” replaces “Between” because there are five interns mentioned, so the sentence compares more than two things. “Between” is used to compare two things.
8. A        The sentence appropriately uses the superlative “most” to describe the popularity of the bull run in Pamplona compared to the rest of the bull runs held in the world.
9. A        The sentence appropriately uses the comparative “better” to compare the bolognese and the carbonara.
10. C        “Largest” replaces “larger” because the sentence indicates “all the site-specific installations” so there must be more than two. Thus, the superlative -est is needed to compare three or more things.