

## Degrees of Adjectives – Superlative

### Introduction

1) An adjective is a word or set of words that modifies (i.e. describes) a noun or pronoun. Adjectives may come before or after the word they modify.

*This is a **cute** cat. This cat is **cute**.*

2) Most adjectives can show degree of quality or quantity by forming two degrees of comparison: the comparative degree and the superlative degree. These degrees are formed from the positive degree, which is the usual form of adjectives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
<i>This is a tall building.</i>	<i>This building is taller than that one.</i>	<i>This is the tallest building.</i>

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (*the tallest, the smallest etc.*). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects. When forming the superlative degree follow the pattern *noun/pronoun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + noun/pronoun (object)*.

*My room is **the largest** one in the house.*

The group that is being compared with can be omitted if it is clear from the context that something is at the upper or lower limit of a quality

*She is **the prettiest** (girl in the office.)*

Superlative adjectives with one syllable are normally formed by adding *-est* to the adjective.

*smart – the smartest*

If an adjective has a *consonant + single vowel + consonant* spelling, *the final consonant* must be *doubled* before adding *-est*.

*big – the biggest*

Adjectives ending in *consonant + -y* change *-y* to *-i* and add *-est*.

*dry – the driest*

Adjectives with two syllables can form the superlative either by adding *-est* or by preceding the adjective with *the most*.

*happy – the happiest*

*tangled – the most tangled*

In many cases, both forms are used, although one usage will be more common than the other. If you are not sure whether a two-syllable adjective can take a superlative ending, use *the most* instead.

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the superlative by preceding the adjective with *the most*.

*beautiful – the most beautiful*

Some adjectives do not follow any of the rules explained earlier. They are irregular. Here are the most common irregular adjectives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
<i>good</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>the best</i>
<i>bad</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>the worst</i>
<i>far</i>	<i>farther/further</i>	<i>the farthest/furthest</i>
<i>little</i>	<i>less</i>	<i>the least</i>
<i>much/many</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>the most</i>

### Short Story Dialogue

– *How are you doing?*

– *I'm OK. And how are you?*

– *I'm fine, thank you! I must say that you look more tired in comparison to when I saw you last time.*

– *Yeah, my life is in **the most complicated** stage now. I'm finishing my studies and... I'm craving for sleep! I try to choose **the healthiest** options when I eat, I try to be **the most active** but it doesn't help when you sleep 4 hours a day.*

– *I totally get you! Life was definitely **in the easiest stages** when we were kids.*

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## Independent Practice - Degrees of Adjectives – Positive – Superlative

### 1) Underline the correct word or phrase.

- a. You are truly *the best/the most good!*
- b. This dress is *the most unusual/the more unusual* one you've ever had.
- c. That was *the worst/the worstest* day in their life.
- d. Bill is *the most attentive/most attentive* student I've ever seen.
- e. This was *the funniest/the more funnier* ride ever!

### 2) Form the superlative degree.

- a. This is (good) ..... movie I've ever watched.
- b. This was (little) ..... favourite option of ours.
- c. Have you heard of (dangerous) ..... animal in Alaska?
- d. You are (smart) ..... person I know.
- e. Who is (rich) ..... man on earth?

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Degrees of Adjectives – Positive – Superlative

### 1) Underline the correct word or phrase.

- a. You are truly the best/*the most good*!
- b. This dress is the most unusual/*the more unusual* one you've ever had.
- c. That was the worst/*the worstest* day in their life.
- d. Bill is the most attentive/*most attentive* student I've ever seen.
- e. This was the funniest/*the more funnier* ride ever!

### 2) Form the superlative degree.

- a. This is **the best movie** I've ever watched.
- b. This was **the least favourite** option of ours.
- c. Have you heard of **the most dangerous** animal in Alaska?
- d. You are **the smartest** person I know.
- e. Who is **the richest** man on earth?