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Examples of superlatives

Superlatives truly shine as the best words for comparisons of three or more things! If you want to give a noun top billing in its category, superlative adjectives come to the rescue with their powerful comparison skills. Becoming a skilled English speaker demands mastering how to use these mighty words wisely. In this guide, we'll break down the basics of superlative adjectives, including spelling rules, most usage, and a deep dive into comparative versus superlative adjectives. But before we get into the nitty-gritty details, let's take a closer look at what superlative adjectives are all about. Superlative adjectives are a special form that adjectives take when comparing three or more things, such as "the tallest student in class" or "the most popular game." Generally, they show that something is at the very top of its category, with no others having more of that adjective's trait. Luckily, you can turn any adjective into a superlative! For short adjectives, simply add -est to the end, while long ones need the adverb most before them. Just be mindful of an adjective's meaning because some words just don't lend themselves to comparison; for example, something can't be "the most unique" since all unique things are equally so. Using superlative adjectives in sentences Superlative adjectives function like other adjectives by modifying nouns. Most of the time, they come directly before the noun they're describing. The tallest student in class gets the books from the top shelf. 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. With 590 million followers, Cristiano Ronaldo is indeed the most popular person on Instagram. However, instead of using "the", you can also opt for a possessive adjective like "my" and "their" or a possessive noun like "teacher's" and "Cody's". Aryana is my best friend this week. Mozart's most famous composition is Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. Furthermore, you don't need "the" when comparing something with itself, such as explaining when a person or thing is at its highest level of something. In the Northern Hemisphere, temperatures are hottest in July. I am hungriest after watching ads for pizza. Incidentally, in these constructions, the superlative adjective often gets separated from the noun it modifies. When to use most with superlative adjectives One key to mastering superlative adjectives is understanding when to use -est and when to use the adverb most. Generally, short adjectives use -est while long ones use most, but things get a bit more complicated. Specifically, you should use "most" for: All adjectives with three or more syllables Adjectives with two syllables except those that end in -er, -ow, -le, or -y Typically, if an adjective has two or more syllables, it uses most. However, there are some exceptions to this rule. When forming the superlative degree of adjectives with specific endings, there are certain spelling rules to follow. Both comparative and superlative adjectives follow similar spelling rules, such as changing a 'y' to an 'i' before adding the suffix. To clear up confusion about when to use which type of adjective: for comparisons involving only two things, use comparative adjectives; for comparing three or more items, including everything in a group, use superlative adjectives. This is demonstrated in the following example: "I am stronger than my brother," but "the strongest person in the family is grandma!" Superlative Adjectives FAQs What are superlative adjectives? These adjectives show something is at the top of its category with no others having more of an adjective's trait, such as "the tallest student" or "the most popular game." Examples of superlative adjectives include: fastest, smallest, most important, most confident, best, worst. What sets superlative adjectives apart from comparative adjectives? The key difference is the number of things being compared: for two items, use comparative; for three or more items, including everything in a category, use superlative. This reference aims to help you understand and effectively use superlative adjectives, covering one-syllable, two-syllable, and multi-syllable forms, as well as irregular ones. It also addresses common errors and provides examples in context with accompanying visuals to aid comprehension. Superlative adjectives are a vital part of language that allows us to express the highest degree of a quality or characteristic, whether describing the tallest building or the most delicious food. The article discusses the use of superlative adjectives, which help emphasize the highest degree of a quality. These words provide clear comparisons and should be used correctly to avoid mistakes. A table provides guidelines on forming superlative adjectives for different types of words. Examples include: - The smallest toy car among his friends belongs to Joe. - This is the most expensive item in the store. - Her presentation was the least interesting one in the conference. Using superlative adjectives effectively requires attention to their formation. One-syllable adjectives add -est, two-syllable adjectives use "most" followed by -est, and three-syllable adjectives also use "most." However, irregular superlatives have unique forms that must be memorized. Common errors occur when forming superlative adjectives incorrectly. For instance: - Incorrect: more tall - Correct: tallest Superlative adjectives are typically used for comparisons involving three or more items, while using them with fewer than three items can lead to confusion. Superlatives are used to compare three or more things and show which one has the least or greatest degree of a quality. They must be used correctly to avoid confusion with comparatives. For example: Comparative: faster Superlative: fastest Avoid mixing these up. Comparatives should never be used to indicate extremities. Some examples: Neville is tallest. Mark listens most attentively of all the students. The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not "Eureka!" but "That's funny." To form a superlative, add -est to the end if it has only one syllable, or use the correct form for words with more than one syllable. The superlative form of a word is used to compare three or more things, but it's not the best choice when comparing just two things. In general, if a word has more than one syllable, follow these spelling rules: there are also a few irregular ones, and some of these are commonly used adjectives and adverbs. For example: The best defense against the atom bomb is not to be there when it goes off. (Anon from the US) Pearl is the worst behaved dolphin in the project's history. (worst = superlative form of the adverb badly) Superlatives are used to compare more than two things. When comparing just two things, you must use a comparative. For example: The Mercedes is the fastest car in the race. (fast = superlative of) The Mercedes is faster than the McLaren this year. Don't create a superlative by combining two rules. Instead, only use the superlative degree when comparing three or more things. For example, Janet is the cleverest among Janet and John, not "cleverer." If something's amiss with this page, quickly find us using #gm. You can also generate a QR code for this article or any other page on XYoutuDefacebookmailinglistgrammar forum. Grammar enthusiasts, note that superlative adjectives help describe the most extreme characteristics of nouns. Keep reading to learn more about these adjectives and their various endings. One-syllable adjectives like "small" become "smallest," while two-syllable adjectives may use "-est" or "most/least." The style depends on your preference. Certain adjectives, such as those with a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, double the final consonant before adding the ending, like "big" becoming "biggest." Here's a list of superlative examples that add "-est": * big - biggest * black - blackest * bold - boldest * brave - bravest * bright - brightest * cheap - cheapest * clean - cleanest * clever - cleverest * cold - coldest * dull - dullest * faint - faintest * few - fewest * gentle - gentlest * grand - grandest * grave - gravest * great - greatest * high - highest * kind - kindest * loud - loudest * moist - moistest * narrow - narrowest * nice - nicest * odd - oddest * proud - proudest * pure - purest * quiet - quietest * rare - rarest * rich - richest * ripe - ripest * rough - roughest * rude - rudest * safe - safest * shallow - shallowest * simple - simplest * smooth - smoothest * strange - strangest * strict - strictest * true - trues * weird - weirdest * young - youngest Adjectives come in different forms. Some change with -er or -est to become more or less something, but some don't follow this rule and have their own special way of making the comparative and superlative forms. For example, good becomes better then best while bad becomes worse then worst. Adjectives like immense and auspicious form the superlative by adding "most" in front, turning them into most immense or most auspicious. It's also worth noting that some adjectives have their own unique ways of forming their comparative and superlative forms, such as far becoming farther and farthest or good becoming better and best. These rules are important to understand when using adjectives to describe things in sentences, like when describing people or objects as the funniest, most eccentric, or the tallest. Our main focus should be on students. It's worth noting that when using adjectives later in a sentence, we can often drop the definite article 'the' without changing its meaning. For instance: She is most beautiful. This cafe is best. John and Lisa are most intelligent. And this bowl is biggest. However, if the adjective comes before the noun, we must use 'the'. Try practicing superlatives with 'the' here. When it comes to superlative adverbs, we also have a choice between using 'the' or no article: Luke reads fastest. I like vanilla ice cream best. She can speak six languages but speaks Spanish most confidently. These comparisons involve one person or thing being compared to others. Yet, when comparing someone or something in two different situations, the rule changes. In such cases, we usually don't use 'the' if the superlative adjective or adverb comes later: I'm most productive early in the morning [I'm more productive than others in the morning]!. I'm the most productive early in the morning [I'm more productive than my colleagues first thing in the morning]. More examples include: Julie does swimming, running and cycling. She's always most tired after cycling. John types most quickly when he's drunk a lot of coffee! Tea is best when you drink it very hot. London is most depressing in January. Try another exercise about using 'the' with superlatives here. Click here for our complete program to improve your English grammar.