

## SUPERLATIVES

- How do we form superlative statements? Study the *grammar reference chart* below.

● Adjectives with one syllable: add 'the' + '-est' or '-st'		
cold	the coldest	"January is often the coldest winter month."
nice	the nicest	"She is the nicest person I know."

● Adjectives with two or more syllables: add 'the' + 'most'		
boring	the most boring	"It's the most boring movie at the cinema."
expensive	the most expensive	"We ate at the most expensive restaurant in town."

● Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y': change '-y' to '-i' and add 'the'		
early	the earliest	"He was the earliest person to arrive"
happy	the happiest	"It was the happiest time of my life."

● Adjectives that end with a vowel and a consonant: double the final letter before adding 'the' + '-est'		
big	the biggest	"Russia is the biggest country in the world."
hot	the hottest	"August is usually the hottest summer month."

● Adjectives that are irregular:		
good	the best	"She is the best student in our class."
bad	the worst	"It was the worst storm in many years."
far	the farthest the furthest	"He lives the farthest/furthest from my home."

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Aim: practising superlative forms

Time: 15 minutes

Procedure:

I Let your students take this quiz:

1. Name the most beautiful woman in the world
2. Name the two wealthiest persons in the world
3. Name the best actor/ actress/ singer
4. Name the ugliest animal in the world
5. Name the longest river in the world
6. Name the highest mountain in the world
7. Name the highest tree in the world
8. Name the most dangerous animal in the world
9. Name the most difficult job in the world
10. Name the worst film they have ever seen

II Let your students make five more quiz entries with known adjectives:

1. Name the.....
2. Name the .....
3. Name the .....
4. Name the .....
5. Name the .....

III Pair work: Put your students into pair and let them discuss their answers. Then put them in fours and let the groups agree/ disagree on their answers. This should raise enough material for the discussion.

IV Feedback: Let the groups report back to the class giving their reasons for the particular choice.

## Superlatives Quiz

1. What is the coldest place on Earth?  
a. the Arctic                      b. the Antarctic                      c. Siberia
2. What is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world?  
a. Jerusalem                      b. Athens                      c. Damascus
3. What is the most crowded country in the world?  
a. Monaco                      b. Singapore                      c. Bangladesh
4. What is the least densely populated country in the world?  
a. Canada                      b. Australia                      c. Mongolia
5. What is the largest ocean in the world?  
a. the Pacific                      b. the Atlantic                      c. the Indian Ocean
6. What is the largest desert in the world?  
a. the Sahara                      b. the Gobi                      c. the Antarctic
7. What is the heaviest animal on Earth?  
a. rhinoceros                      b. hippopotamus                      c. elephant
8. The mosquito kills more people than any other animal in Africa. What is the second most dangerous African animal?  
a. lion                      b. crocodile                      c. hippopotamus
9. Which animal has the longest life span?  
a. giant tortoise                      b. chimpanzee                      c. parrot
10. Which country has the most visitors each year?  
a. Italy                      b. France                      c. China
11. What is the world's busiest train station (has the most passengers daily)?  
a. Shinjuku, Tokyo      b. Grand Central, New York      c. Gard du Nord, Paris
12. Which American city has the world's busiest airport?  
a. Chicago                      b. New York                      c. Atlanta
13. How heavy was the heaviest ever person?  
a. 335kg                      b. 635kg                      c. 935kg
14. What was the first country to give women the right to vote?  
a. Australia                      b. New Zealand                      c. Saudi Arabia
15. What is the highest mountain in the world?  
a. Mt. Everest                      b. Chomolungma                      c. Sagarmatha

## Superlatives Quiz

### *Answer Key*

1. b. the Antarctic
2. c. Damascus
3. a. Monaco
4. c. Mongolia
5. a. the Pacific
6. c. the Antarctic (deserts do not have to be hot!)
7. c. elephant
8. c. hippopotamus
9. a. giant tortoise
10. b. France
11. a. Shinjuku, Tokyo
12. c. Atlanta
13. b. 635kg
14. b. New Zealand
15. a. Mt. Everest      b. Chomolungma      c. Sagarmatha  
(These are, of course, three names for the same mountain,  
Chomolungma being the Tibetan name, Sagarmatha the Nepalese.)

# GRAMMAR

**Superlatives**

Below are 14 adjectives. Can you find their matching *superlative* forms?

**14 words ...10 minutes!**

angry fast

bad famous


beautiful good

big happy

busy slow

comfortable tall

excited terrible



*He is the tallest.*

Below the grid is a list of 14 words, each followed by a blank space for the superlative form:

angry \_\_\_\_\_ fast \_\_\_\_\_

bad \_\_\_\_\_ famous \_\_\_\_\_

beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_

big \_\_\_\_\_ happy \_\_\_\_\_

busy \_\_\_\_\_ slow \_\_\_\_\_

comfortable \_\_\_\_\_ tall \_\_\_\_\_

excited \_\_\_\_\_ terrible \_\_\_\_\_

■ Use the superlative forms of the above words to describe some people and places.