

SUPERLATIVES

The **superlative** of adjectives and adverbs express the extremes. Most adjectives add a suffix **-est** to form the corresponding superlatives.

If the adjective or adverb **ends in a single consonant**, double that consonant before adding the **-est**.

If the adjective or adverb **ends in -y**, change **-y** to **-i** before adding the **-est**.

| Adjective | Superlative |
|------------------|--------------------|
| hard | the hardest |
| early | the earliest |
| poor | the poorest |
| flat | the flattest |
| sad | the saddest |

The journey is **the hardest** at the start.

The landscape became **the flattest** in the middle.

Tomorrow is **the earliest** I can start on this project.

| Adverb | Superlative |
|---------------|--------------------|
| hard | the hardest |
| early | the earliest |
| soon | the soonest |
| fast | the fastest |
| late | the latest |

He felt **the hardest** when he was tackled from behind.

They **will arrive** the earliest at noon.

Jill runs **the fastest** on this course.

Notice the definite article "the" is always used before the superlative

There are a few irregular formations of superlatives:

| <u>Adjective</u> | <u>Superlative</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| good | the best |
| bad | the worst |
| far | the farthest/furthest |
| much | the most |
| little | the least |
| many | most |

Superlatives can also be formed by placing the word “**the most**” in front of **adjectives** and **adverbs that are long** (two syllables or more) or come to English from **French, Latin**, or other **foreign sources**. “**the most**” can be replaced with “**the least**” to achieve the opposite meaning.

| Adjective | Superlative |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| visible | the most visible |
| truthful | the least truthful |
| homogeneous | the most homogeneous |
| superficial | the least superficial |
| controllable | the most controllable |

| Adverb | Superlative |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| eagerly | the most eagerly |
| hazardously | the least hazardously |
| conveniently | the most conveniently |
| superficially | the least superficially |
| controllably | the most controllably |

Practice1: Fill in the comparative adjectives and adverbs for the adjective given.

| Adjective | Superlative Adjective | Superlative Adverb |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. slow | _____ | _____ |

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| 2. bright | _____ | _____ |
| 3. careful | _____ | _____ |
| 4. strenuous | _____ | _____ |
| 5. shallow | _____ | _____ |
| 6. beautiful | _____ | _____ |
| 7. straightforward | _____ | _____ |
| 8. soon | _____ | _____ |
| 9. well | _____ | _____ |
| 10. special | _____ | _____ |
| 11. obvious | _____ | _____ |
| 12. bad | _____ | _____ |
| 13. exciting | _____ | _____ |
| 14. excited | _____ | _____ |
| 15. good | _____ | _____ |
| 16. loving | _____ | _____ |
| 17. far | _____ | _____ |
| 18. delightful | _____ | _____ |

Answers1:

| Adjective | Superlative Adjective | Superlative Adverb |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. slow | the slowest | the most/least slowly |
| 2. bright | the brightest | the most/least brightly |
| 3. careful | the most/least careful | the most/least carefully |
| 4. strenuous | the most/least strenuous | the most/least strenuously |
| 5. shallow | the shallowest/most shallow | the most/least shallowly |
| 6. beautiful | the most/least beautiful | the most/least beautifully |
| 7. straightforward | the most/least straightforward | the most/least straightforwardly |
| 8. soon | the soonest | the soonest |
| 9. well | the best | the best |

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10. special | the most/least special | the most/least specially |
| 11. obvious | the most/least obvious | the most/least obviously |
| 12. bad | the worst | the worst |
| 13. exciting | the most/least exciting | the most/least excitingly |
| 14. excited | the most/least excited | the most/least excitedly |
| 15. good | the best | the best |
| 16. loving | the most/least loving | the most/least lovingly |
| 17. far | the furthest | the furthest |
| 18. delightful | the most/least delightful | the most/least delightfully |

Practice2:

Write sentences with superlatives from [Practice1](#)

Answers2:

- The plot of the movie is **the slowest** at halfway. (adjective)
The plot of the movie progressed **the slowest/the most slowly** at halfway. (adverb)
- Today's news gives peace **the brightest** prospect. (adjective)
The prospect of peace rises **the most brightly** with today's news. (adverb)
- This time they make **the most careful** approach. (adjective)
This time they approach it **the most carefully**. (adverb)
- This is **the most strenuous** exercise. (adjective)
He exercises **the most strenuously**. (adverb)
- The conversation was **the shallowest** by the end. (adjective)
The conversation turned **the most shallowly** by the end. (adverb)
- His last performances were **the most beautiful**. (adjective)
He performed **the most beautifully** in the end. (adverb)
- His reason is **the most straightforward**. (adjective)
He reasons **the most straightforwardly**. (adverb)
- We need **the soonest** result. (adjective)
We need the result **the soonest**. (adverb)
- Her tennis is **the best** with his coaching. (adjective)
She plays **the best** with his coaching. (adverb)
- The acts of kindness are **the most special** during times of needs. (adjective)
The acts of kindness come **the most specially** during times of needs. (adverb)
- The solution is **the most obvious** with logic. (adjective)
The solution came across **the most obviously** with logic. (adverb)
- The team was **the worst** last season. (adjective)

- The team performed **the worst** last season. (adverb)
13. The outcome was **the most interesting** at the end. (adjective)
The outcome manifested **the most interestingly** at the end. (adverb)
14. He was **the most excited** when the expedition started. (adjective)
He felt **the most excitingly** at the start of the expedition. (adverb)
15. She reaches **the best** conclusion after the inquiries. (adjective)
She reaches the conclusion **the best** after the inquiries. (adverb)
16. That last letter is **the most loving**. (adjective)
He wrote **the most lovingly** in the last letter. (adverb)
17. Jim is **the furthest** behind with schoolwork at this point. (adjective)
Jim falls **the furthest** behind with schoolwork at this point. (adverb)
18. This victory is **the most delightful**. (adjective)
This victory feels **the most delightfully**. (adverb).