

What is a superlative?

Superlative is used to say that a thing, a person or an idea has more (or less) particularity than other similar things.

To do this, we use superlative adjectives:

Look at the following examples:

- The Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
- Nathan is the best football player in the team.

Superlative adjectives

Let's look at the formation of English superlative adjectives, there are several types:

Adjectives with one syllable:

Examples: *fast, great, quick, short, tall...*

it is necessary to add *-est*

- cheap → the cheapest
- high → the highest

Adjectives with one syllable ending in "e":

Ex: *close, huge, large, strange...*

it is necessary to add *-st*

- nice → the nicest
- wise → the wisest

Adjectives that end in consonant/vowel/consonant:

Ex: *fat, red, sad, thin...*

it is necessary to add a consonant + *-est*

- big → the biggest
- hot → the hottest

Adjectives in two syllables ending with -y:

Ex: *heavy, tiny...*

it is necessary to replace the *-y* by *-iest*

- happy → the happiest
- crazy → the craziest
- early → the earliest
- easy → the easiest
- pretty → the prettiest

Adjectives in two or more syllables:

Ex: *important, delicious, generous...*

It's necessary to add *the most/the least*

- beautiful => the most beautiful
- expensive => the most expensive

Les adjectifs irréguliers superlatifs:

- good → the best
- bad → the worst
- far → the furthest
- little → the smallest

To say that two things are equal: As... as...

We use **as + adjective + as** to say that two things are similar or equal:

- He's as tall as me.
- Tom's bike is as fast as mine.

We use *not as + adjective + as* to say that two things are not equal:

- Danny's car is not as fast as mine.

⚠ Superlatives can be modified with *by, far, easily* and *nearly*:

- Ti Amo is by far the best restaurant in town.
- She's nearly the oldest in the class.

⚠ If there is a possessive in the sentence, we do not use 'the' with the adjective superlative:

- Her strongest point is her ambition.

⚠ Be careful not to confuse superlatives and comparisons!