SUPERLATIVES

We use superlatives to compare one thing against the rest of the group / type.

When we use the superlative we are saying that something has more quality or quantity of something that all the others you are comparing it/Them with.

Remember superlatives are adjectives so we will never use nouns in a superlative.

We need to pay attention to how many syllables we pronounce in the adjective we are going to use and, based on that, make the superlative one way or the other.

We always use ‘THE’ before the superlative adjective.

ONE SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

We add ‘—est’ at the end of the adjective. Remember that if the adjective ends in Consonant+Vowel+Consonant we double the last consonant.

- big ➔ the biggest
- tall ➔ the tallest
- short ➔ the shortest
- hot ➔ the hottest

TWO SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES ENDING IN ‘—Y’

We change the ‘—y’ for an ‘—i’ and add ‘—est’.

- lucky ➔ the luckiest
- happy ➔ the happiest
- busy ➔ the busiest
REST OF TWO SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

In this case something strange happens. There are no rules that cover all. There are tendencies.

For most two syllable adjectives we form the superlative by putting ‘MOST’ before the adjective and after ‘THE’. We don’t change the adjective.

famous ➔ the most famous  common ➔ the most common

Some two syllable adjectives accept both forms: ‘the most …’ and ‘—est’.

clever ➔ the cleverest OR the most clever

THREE OR MORE SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

We always form these superlatives by using ‘THE MOST…’

beautiful ➔ the most beautiful  comfortable ➔ the most comfortable

IRREGULAR SUPERLATIVES

As with many grammar rules in English, there are exceptions and irregular forms.

good ➔ the best  bad ➔ the worst  far ➔ the farthest / the furthest

NOW GO TO THE NEXT PAGE AND COMPLETE THE PRACTICE EXERCISE
PRACTICE EXERCISE: SUPERLATIVES

Complete the following sentences with a superlative using the adjective in the brackets ( ).

1. My brother is ________________________ (tall) in his class.

2. The cheetah is ________________________ (fast) animal on land.

3. She always has a smile on her face. She is ________________________ (nice) girl I know.

4. Mount Everest is ________________________________ (beautiful) mountain in the world.

5. I am ________________________ (bad) student at mathematics.

6. There’s no problem! Your insurance is ________________________ (good) of all of them.

7. You haven’t done anything and you say that you are ________________________ (tired) one!

8. This restaurant is certainly not ________________________ (bad) one. You should try that one!

YOU CAN PRINT THIS PAGE TO DO THE EXERCISE. THE ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN TOMORROW.