

# 16 Talking about extremes

Use superlative adjectives to talk about extremes, such as "the biggest" or "the smallest." For long adjectives, use "the most" to make the superlative.

- ✿ **New language** Superlative adjectives
- ✿ **Aa Vocabulary** Animals, facts, and places
- ✿ **New skill** Talking about extremes

## 16.1 KEY LANGUAGE SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

For most adjectives with one or two syllables, add "est" to make the superlative.

**K2 is higher than Annapurna, but Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world.**

Always use the definite article ("the") before the superlative.

The comparative describes the difference between two things.

The superlative describes which thing is the most extreme.



Annapurna



K2



Everest



## 16.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

Rhinos are bigger than cows, but elephants are **the biggest** land animals.



Great white sharks are larger than dolphins, but blue whales are **the largest** animals in the world.



## 16.3 HOW TO FORM SENTENCES WITH SUPERLATIVES

SUBJECT + VERB

"THE" + SUPERLATIVE

REST OF SENTENCE

Everest is

**the highest**

mountain in the world.

## 16.4 KEY LANGUAGE FORMING SUPERLATIVES

There are special rules for adjectives ending in "e" or "y," and for some that end with a single consonant.

fast  
fastest

Add "est" to most adjectives of one or two syllables.

close  
closest

If the adjective ends in "e," you just add "st."

early  
earliest

For some adjectives ending in "y," take off the "y" and add "iest."

big  
biggest

For single-syllable adjectives ending consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final letter and add "est."



## 16.5 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Friends Joel, Sarah, and Ben talk about the things they've bought.

Who has the fastest car?

Joel  Sarah  Ben

1 Who is the tallest?

Joel  Sarah  Ben

2 Who has the smallest phone?

Joel  Sarah  Ben

3 Who has the cheapest laptop?

Joel  Sarah  Ben

4 Who has the most expensive apartment?

Joel  Sarah  Ben

5 Who is the youngest?

Joel  Sarah  Ben



## 16.6 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE ADJECTIVES IN THE CORRECT FORM

The oldest (old) plane in the world is the Blériot XI.

1 The African elephant is the heaviest (heavy) animal on land.

2 The fastest (fast) animal in the world is the peregrine falcon.

3 The longest (long) word in the English dictionary has 45 letters.

4 The Sahara is the biggest (big) desert in the world.

5 The giraffe is the tallest (tall) animal on Earth.



## 16.7 KEY LANGUAGE SUPERLATIVES WITH LONG ADJECTIVES

For some two-syllable adjectives and for adjectives of three syllables or more, use "the most" before the adjective. The form of the adjective doesn't change.



The Palace Hotel is **more expensive** than the Rialto, but the Biaritz is **the most expensive** hotel in the city.

Use "the most" with the adjective.

The adjective stays the same.



## 16.8 HOW TO FORM SUPERLATIVES WITH LONG ADJECTIVES

SUBJECT + VERB

"THE" + SUPERLATIVE

ADJECTIVE

REST OF SENTENCE

This is

the most

expensive

hotel in the city.

## 16.9 FURTHER EXAMPLES SUPERLATIVES WITH LONG ADJECTIVES

The science museum is **the most interesting** museum in town.



The Twister is **the most exciting** ride in the theme park.



This is **the most comfortable** chair in the room.



## 16.10 MATCH THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT ENDINGS

The Yangtze River is

the largest state in the US.

1 Antarctica is

the coldest place on Earth.

2 Mumbai is

the most dangerous snake in the world.

3 Alaska is

the longest river in Asia.

4 The inland taipan is

the biggest city in India.



## 16.11 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

**The Hotel Blog**  
HOME | ENTRIES | ABOUT | CONTACT

POSTED FRIDAY, 28 AUGUST

**The Rialto** (height: 500 feet) is two miles from the beach. The average temperature is a hot 85°F, and it's in a three-star (\*\*) area of natural beauty. Room per night: \$500. Number of rooms: 300.

**The Plaza** (height: 600 feet) is one mile from the beach, and in a five-star (\*\*\*\*) area of natural beauty. The temperature is usually a warm 75°F. Room per night: \$400. Number of rooms: 500.

**The Grand** (height: 300 feet) is less than a mile from the beach. It's in a four-star (\*\*) area of natural beauty, and the temperature is a cool 65°F. Room per night: \$515. Number of rooms: 200.

Which is the most expensive hotel?

The Rialto  The Plaza  The Grand

1 Which hotel is the closest to the beach?

The Rialto  The Plaza  The Grand

2 Which is the tallest hotel?

The Rialto  The Plaza  The Grand

3 Which hotel is in the most beautiful area?

The Rialto  The Plaza  The Grand

4 Which hotel has the fewest rooms?

The Rialto  The Plaza  The Grand

5 Which hotel is in the warmest place?

The Rialto  The Plaza  The Grand

## 16.12 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, FILLING IN THE GAPS USING SUPERLATIVES

Mount Everest is a very high mountain. It is the highest mountain in the world.

1 Moscow is a very large city. It is the largest city in Europe.

2 The Missouri River is 2,540 miles long. It is the longest river in North America.

3 The cheetah is a very fast animal. It is the fastest land animal on Earth.

4 The Kali Gandaki Gorge is 3.46 miles deep. It is the deepest gorge in the world.

### 16 ✓ CHECKLIST

Superlative adjectives

Aa Animals, facts, and places

Talking about extremes