

# 31 Superlative adjectives



Lots of people enjoy going on roller coasters. Kingda Ka is the highest and the fastest. But many people think Eejanaika is the most exciting roller coaster in the world.

## 1 Form

To make superlative adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	→	SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVE
most short adjectives (1 syllable)	add <b>-est</b>	<i>small</i> → <i>smallest</i> , <i>young</i> → <i>youngest</i> , <i>high</i> → <i>highest</i> , <i>fast</i> → <i>fastest</i>
adjectives that end in <b>-e</b>	add <b>-st</b>	<i>late</i> → <i>latest</i> , <i>nice</i> → <i>nicest</i> , <i>wide</i> → <i>widest</i>
adjectives that end in vowel + consonant, e.g. <b>-ig, -at, -ot, -in</b>	add another consonant + <b>-est</b>	<i>big</i> → <i>biggest</i> , <i>fat</i> → <i>fattest</i> , <i>hot</i> → <i>hottest</i> , <i>thin</i> → <i>thinnest</i>
adjectives that end in <b>-y</b>	change <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <b>-est</b>	<i>dry</i> → <i>driest</i> , <i>happy</i> → <i>happiest</i> , <i>early</i> → <i>earliest</i>

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Pronunciation ► 1.08

For most adjectives with two or more syllables (e.g. *useful*, *difficult*, *expensive*) we use *the most* + adjective:

*Eejanaika is **the most exciting** roller coaster. My mobile phone is **the most useful** thing I own.*

The opposite of *the most* is *the least*. We usually use *the least* with adjectives with two or more syllables: *Excuse me. Which is **the least expensive** phone you sell?*



These adjectives have irregular superlative forms:

*bad* → *worst*, *good* → *best*, *far* → *farthest/furthest*

✗ *He's ~~the most good~~ student in the class.* ✓ *He's **the best** student in the class.*

## 2 Use

We use superlative adjectives when we compare one person/thing with several others.



We use *the* before superlative adjectives:

✗ *Kingda Ka is ~~fastest~~ roller coaster.* ✓ *Kingda Ka is **the fastest** roller coaster.*



After superlative adjectives we use *in* before the names of places and groups:

✗ *Eejanaika is ~~the most exciting~~ roller coaster of the world.*  
✓ *Eejanaika is **the most exciting** roller coaster **in the world**.*

We can also use *my/your/his*, etc. before superlative adjectives:

*Jenny is **my oldest** friend. What is **your happiest** memory?*

We often use superlative adjectives + *I've ever ...*, *you've ever ...*, etc. to talk about our experiences:

*That was **the best** book I've ever read. What's **the most expensive** thing you've ever bought?*