

## English Grammar – Superlatives

These are used for extremes.

1a) For short adjectives, we use “the” + “est”:

Examples:

small	<b>the smallest</b>	
nice	<b>the nicest</b>	
short	<b>the shortest</b>	
big	<b>the biggest</b>	(CVC - extra consonant)
fat	<b>the fattest</b>	(CVC - extra consonant)
thin	<b>the thinnest</b>	(CVC - extra consonant)

1b) For adjectives which finish with “y”, we replace “y” with “iest”:

Examples:

pretty	<b>the prettiest</b>	(y → iest)
crazy	<b>the craziest</b>	(y → iest)
funny	<b>the funniest</b>	(y → iest)

2) For long adjectives, we use “the most”:

Examples:

interesting	<b>the most interesting</b>
beautiful	<b>the most beautiful</b>
intelligent	<b>the most intelligent</b>

There are some exceptions:

good	<b>the best</b>
bad	<b>the worst</b>
far	<b>the farthest</b> (USA) / <b>the furthest</b> (UK)

Note: Many words in English ending in ‘st’ are superlatives: first, last, most, best, worst.

**Exercise 1.** Complete the following sentences using your imagination:

1. São Paulo is \_\_\_\_\_ city in Brazil.
2. Curitiba is \_\_\_\_\_ capital in Brazil.
3. Whales are \_\_\_\_\_ mammals in the oceans.
4. My dog is \_\_\_\_\_ dog in the world.
5. Mandarin is \_\_\_\_\_ language in the world.
6. Football is \_\_\_\_\_ sport in Brazil.
7. Mount Everest is \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in the world.
8. My father is \_\_\_\_\_ man that I know.

**Exercise 2. Complete the following questions:**

For example:

Q: What is the biggest city in Brazil? A: São Paulo.

1. Q: What is \_\_\_\_\_ . A: Mount Everest.
2. Q: What is \_\_\_\_\_ . A: The cheetah.
3. Q: What is \_\_\_\_\_ . A: The dolphin.
4. Q: What is \_\_\_\_\_ . A: The Vatican.
5. Q: Who is \_\_\_\_\_ . A: Pelé.

**Exercise 3. Make two sentences, using a comparative and a superlative:**

For example:

São Paulo / Curitiba / Brazil:

- a) São Paulo is bigger than Curitiba.
- b) São Paulo is the biggest city in Brazil.

1. sharks / dolphins / in the oceans:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_

2. dogs / cats / in the world:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. lions / snakes / in the jungle:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_