

## Superlative: Simply the Best

The first few months of the year is the time when companies are taking a look back at some of *the best* and/or *the worst* business decisions they made in the past year, and the time when they start making plans for the new year, which in the end might turn out to be *the most successful* year in their history. Although financial reports can be *the simplest* and *the most effective* way to measure business efforts and success, they cannot always show all the results of the hard work that employees put into a company throughout the year. If, for example, your boss happens to tell you that he thinks you are *the most reliable* member of the team, or if your client says that was *the fastest service* he or she has received, that just might make your entire year of work worthwhile.

The italicised words in the first paragraph are examples of the superlative form of the adjectives. Superlative adjectives are used to compare more than two things and they show the highest degree of quality of what is described. In the table below you will find the rules for forming superlative adjectives in English.

one-syllable adjectives	add <i>-est</i>	<i>high – the highest</i> <i>fast – the fastest</i>
one-syllable adjectives spelled with a final <i>e</i> preceded by a consonant	remove the <i>e</i> and then add <i>-est</i>	<i>fine – the finest</i> <i>wide – the widest</i>
one-syllable adjectives spelled with a final consonant preceded by a single vowel	double the final consonant and add <i>-est</i>	<i>big – the biggest</i> <i>hot – the hottest</i>
one- or two-syllable adjectives spelled with a final <i>y</i> preceded by a consonant	change the <i>y</i> into <i>i</i> and then add <i>-est</i>	<i>heavy – the heaviest</i> <i>easy – the easiest</i>
adjectives with three syllables or more	add <i>most</i> before the adjective	<i>refreshing – the most refreshing</i> <i>attractive – the most attractive</i>

When superlative adjectives are followed by a noun put the definite article *the* before the adjectives.

Some adjectives have irregular superlative forms:

good	the best
well (healthy)	the best
bad	the worst
far (distance)	the farthest
far (distance & other meanings)	the furthest
old (general use)	the oldest
old (people in the family)	the eldest
little (quantity)	the least
little (size)	the smallest
much	the most

Complete the sentences with the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

1. The new designers team were looking for \_\_\_\_\_ (creative) stand design.
2. What are currently \_\_\_\_\_ (attractive) rental areas for investors?
3. This has been \_\_\_\_\_ (bad) season for Ronaldo in Spain since he joined Real Madrid.
4. It's going to be one of \_\_\_\_\_ (nice) office complexes in town.
5. March 3<sup>rd</sup> was probably \_\_\_\_\_ (important) day in this Council's five-year life.
6. I think that the two branches are \_\_\_\_\_ (obvious) places to start our audit.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (good) index funds offer low fees and are transparent about their investments.
8. Some people take the Constitution of the USA as \_\_\_\_\_ (far) advancement in the development of democratic government to date.
9. Even \_\_\_\_\_ (dedicated) employees need to be prepared for a change in circumstances that will force them to seek alternative employment.
10. This is one of \_\_\_\_\_ (old) companies in the world.

*Key: 1. the most creative, 2. the most attractive, 3. the worst, 4. the nicest, 5. the most important, 6. the most obvious, 7. the best, 8. the furthest, 9. the most dedicated, 10. the oldest*