Study Guide

Superlative Adjectives
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**Adjectives: Superlative**An adjective is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives answer one of the following questions: Which one? What kind? How many? How much?

A superlative adjective is used to compare more than two things.

Superlative adverbs may be compared by using **-est** endings. However, the majority of descriptive adverbs are compared using the **-ly** ending and the word **most**.

Here are some examples of superlative adjectives.

- Ex. John is the *funniest* kid in our class.
- Ex. Cake is the *best* dessert.
- Ex. Daisy is the *most intelligent* dog in the world.

Here are some helpful hints for the student to use when writing with superlative adjectives.

1. The superlative degree compares three or more things.
2. Add the *-est* ending to most adjectives that are one or two syllables long. For example: *biggest, strongest, fastest, roughest*
3. If the one- or two-syllable adjective ends in *y*, drop the *y* and add *-ier* and *-iest*.
 For example: *happiest, silliest, funniest*
4. Use most and least in front of most adjectives with two or more syllables.
 For example: *most advanced, most capable*
5. Add *-r* and *-st* to short adjectives that end in e.
 For example: *littlest, ablest, subtlest*

There are also some irregular forms of superlative adjectives, including: *most, least, best, and worst*.

**Practice:**

In order to help the student understand how to use superlative adjectives, use the following exercise. Have the student draw three stick figures. One should be tall, look unhappy, and have curly hair. The second should be medium height, look happy, and have straight hair. The third should be short, look slightly happy, and have wavy hair. The student can add other features (like large ears, big muscles, small nose) as long as no two figures are the same. Give the drawings funny names: Moo, Squeaker, or Ozzie, for example. Then ask the student to use superlative adjectives in five sentences that describe the pictures.

 - Ex. Moo has the *largest* ears.
 - Ex. Squeaker looks the *most unhappy*.
 - Ex. Ozzie is the *tallest*.