Superlative Adjectives

An adjective is a word or phrase used to describe a noun or pronoun.

A superlative adjective is used to indicate that one thing has some feature to a greater or lesser degree than all others (in a given context). For example, if Bill is 45, Ted is 27, and Amy is 43, then Bill is the oldest in the group.

• To show an unequal comparison, you need to use an adjective followed by a preposition such as “of”, “in”, “on”, etc. It may also be followed by the noun in which it is the greater or lesser. It may also be followed by nothing else when the context is implicit.

• For superlative adjectives with one syllable, add “est” to the ending.

[adjective + “est”] preposition

Example: Anika is the tallest of the three sisters.

In this example, one thing (Anika) has one feature to a greater degree than all others (the three sisters).

Directions: Fill in the spaces using the appropriate superlative adjective.

1. That building is the ________ (tall) in the neighborhood.
2. Aunt Janet is the ________ (old).
3. My bicycle is the ________ (nice) thing I own.
4. The komodo dragon is the ________ (large) lizard in the world.
5. Mt. Denali is the ________ (high) mountain peak in North America.

Directions: Write two of your own sentences using superlative adjectives with one syllable.

1) _____________________________

2) _____________________________

• For superlative adjectives with two syllables that end in “y”, omit the “y” and add “iest” to the end.

[adjective + “iest”] preposition
Example: The elephant is the heaviest animal in Africa.

Directions: Fill in the spaces using the appropriate superlative adjective.

1. Jones is always the ______________ (early) to work.
2. Dogs are the ______________ (friendly) animals on earth.
3. That is the ______________ (pretty) ring I have ever seen.
4. The Black Mamba is the ______________ (deadly) snake in the world.
5. It is the ______________ (costly) in North Carolina.

Directions: Write two of your own sentences which show an unequal comparison using an adjective with more than one syllable that ends in “y”.

1) __________________________________________________________________________
2) __________________________________________________________________________

• For adjectives with more than one syllable that do not end in “y”, the spelling of the adjective remains unchanged and use “most” or “least” before the adjective.

Example: The butterfly is the most beautiful insect in the country.

Directions: Fill in the spaces using the appropriate superlative adjective.

1. Her house is the _______ ____________ (expensive) in the neighborhood.
2. 10th st. is the _______ ____________ (dangerous).
3. Billy is the _______ ____________ (courageous) person I know.
4. The grey one is the _______ ____________ (colorful) of the three.
5. Alaska is the _______ ____________ (northern) state in the US.

Directions: Write two of your own sentences which show an unequal comparison using an adjective with one syllable.

1) __________________________________________________________________________
2) __________________________________________________________________________