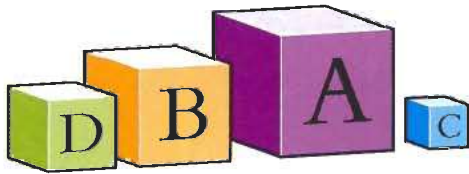


the oldest      the most expensive

A



Box A is **bigger than** Box B.

Box A is **bigger than** all the other boxes.

Box A is **the biggest** box.

**HOTEL PRICES IN KINTON**

(Per room per night)

Europa Hotel	£140	Grosvenor	£100
Grand Hotel	£125	Bennets	£90
Royal	£120	Carlton	£85
Astoria	£115	Star	£75
Palace	£110	Station	£75

The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** the Grand.

The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** all the other hotels in the city.

The Europa Hotel is **the most expensive** hotel in the city.

**Bigger / older / more expensive** etc. are *comparative* forms (→ Unit 87).

**Biggest / oldest / most expensive** etc. are *superlative* forms.

B

The superlative form is **-est (oldest)** or **most ... (most expensive)**.

**Short words (old/cheap/nice etc.) → the -est:**

old → **the oldest**      cheap → **the cheapest**      nice → **the nicest**

*but* good → **the best**      bad → **the worst**

**Spelling (→ Appendix 5):** big → the **biggest**      hot → the **hottest**

**Words ending in -y (easy/heavy etc.) → the -iest:**

easy → **the easiest**      heavy → **the heaviest**      pretty → **the prettiest**

**Long words (careful/expensive/interesting etc.) → the most ... :**

careful → **the most careful**      interesting → **the most interesting**

C

We say **the oldest ... / the most expensive ...** etc. (with **the**):

- The church is very old. It's **the oldest** building in the town.  
(= it is **older than** all the other buildings)
- What is **the longest** river in the world?
- Money is important, but it isn't **the most important** thing in life.
- Excuse me, where is **the nearest** bank?

D

You can use **the oldest / the best / the most expensive** etc. without a noun:

- Ken is a good player, but he isn't **the best** in the team.  
(**the best** = the best player)

E

You can use *superlative* + **I've ever ... / you've ever ...** etc. :

- The film was very bad. I think it's **the worst** film **I've ever seen**.
- What is **the most unusual** thing **you've ever done**?

## 90.1 Write sentences with comparatives (older etc.) and superlatives (the oldest etc.).

1		big/small (A/D) <u>A is bigger than D.</u> (A) <u>A is the biggest.</u> (B) <u>B is the smallest.</u>
2		long/short (C/A) C is ..... A. (D) D is ..... (B) B .....
3		young/old (D/C) D ..... (B) ..... (C) .....
4		expensive/cheap (D/A) ..... (C) ..... (A) .....
5	RESTAURANT A <i>excellent</i> RESTAURANT B <i>not bad</i> RESTAURANT C <i>good but not wonderful</i> RESTAURANT D <i>awful</i>	good/bad (A/C) ..... (A) ..... (D) .....

## 90.2 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (the oldest etc.).

- This building is very old. It's the oldest building in the town.
- It was a very happy day. It was ..... of my life.
- It's a very good film. It's ..... I've ever seen.
- She's a very popular singer. She's ..... in the country.
- It was a very bad mistake. It was ..... I've ever made.
- It's a very pretty village. It's ..... I've ever seen.
- It was a very cold day. It was ..... of the year.
- He's a very boring person. He's ..... I've ever met.

## 90.3 Write sentences with a superlative (the longest etc.). Choose from the boxes.

Sydney	Alaska	high	country	river	Africa	South America
Everest	the Nile	large	city	state	<del>Australia</del>	the world
Brazil	Jupiter	long	mountain	planet	the USA	the solar system

- Sydney is the largest city in Australia.
- Everest .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....