

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32

FOCUS Short Superlative Modifiers

A **short superlative modifier** uses “__est” for a one-syllable modifier to compare three or more things.

Example: big–*biggest*

CONNECT TO WRITING

A modifier describes the meaning of another word or words and makes it more specific or limits its meaning or meanings.

Example: I ate the *big* piece. The word *big* is a modifier, making *piece* more specific.

Use “__est” for a one-syllable modifier to compare three or more things.

Some two-syllable superlative modifiers use “__est” and some use *most (least)*. If adding “__est” sounds strange, use *most (least)* instead.

Examples: easy–*easiest* or gracious–*most* or *least* gracious

Avoid the common mistake of using superlative adjectives to compare only two things.

Example: Problem–Of the two basketball players, James is the *most* improved.

Solution–Of the two basketball players, James is the *more* improved

These superlative modifiers are irregular.

Single Modifier	Comparative	Superlative
good/well	better	best
bad/badly	worse	worst (not <i>worstest</i>)
much/many	more	most

PRACTICE

Cross out any misused superlative modifiers, and write the correct word above each error.

1. The quicker sprinter of the three was Carl Lewis.
2. Comparing the red and green apples, the red ones are the most desired.
3. He chose the bigger piece of the whole cherry pie.
4. Among Reba, Jim, and Antoinette, Reba is the better student.

WRITE

Write your own sentence with an “__est” modifier. Use no modifiers found on this worksheet.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #34

FOCUS Long and “__ly” Superlative Modifiers

Both **long** and “__ly” **superlative modifiers** use *most* (*least*) for a three-syllable or longer modifier to compare three or more things.

Example: wonderful—*most* or *least* wonderful

CONNECT TO WRITING

A modifier describes the meaning of another word or words and makes it more specific or limits its meaning or meanings.

Example: I ate the *delicious* cake. The word *delicious* is a modifier, making *cake* more specific.

Some long superlative modifiers are adjectives. Some long comparative modifiers are adjectives. Adjectives modify a proper noun, a common noun, or a pronoun and answer Which one? How many? or What kind?

Example: intelligent—Of the many *intelligent* men in the group, he was the *most intelligent*.

Some long comparative modifiers are adverbs. Adverbs modify a verb or another adverb and answer What degree? How? Where? or When? Use *more* or *less* for adverbs ending in “__ly.”

Example: angrily—Of the three arguing *angrily*—she argued *most angrily*.

PRACTICE

Cross out any misused superlative modifiers, and write the correct form above each error. If the sentence is correctly written, leave as is.

1. This boy is the more considerate one in the group.
2. That is the less specifically planned stop of our whole vacation.
3. Of all the pilots, he more carefully practiced his take-offs.
4. You more understood the problem than any student in the class.
5. Of the four possible backpack treks, this is the simpliest planned hike.
6. That airline is the less frequently on-time airline of all United States airlines.

WRITE

Write your own sentence with a three-syllable *most* modifier. Use no modifiers found on this worksheet.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #31 Practice Answers

1. closer 2. harder 3. more 4. worse 5. happier

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32 Practice Answers

1. quickest 2. more 3. biggest 4. best

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #33 Practice Answers

1. more (less) difficult 2. more outstanding 3. more (less) incredible
4. more ridiculous 5. more (less) suspiciously 6. more (less) suspected 7. more (less) nervously

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #34 Practice Answers

1. most considerate 2. least specifically 3. most carefully 4. most understood
5. most simply 6. least frequently

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #35 Practice Answers

was LV; had HV told; were HV going; did HV not turn LV; to be LV; would HV not have HV
lied; felt LV; had HV; would HV be LV; seems LV; should HV find

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #36 Practice Answers

1. permission 2. possibility 3. requirement 4. need 5. expectation 6. ability
7. advice

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #37 Practice Answers

1. Penny helped at the senior center after school. 2. Cowboys roped and branded their cattle.
3. That radio station played all of my favorite songs. 4. Tamesia touched her left cheek every
time she raised her hand in class.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #38 Practice Answers

1. Larry was enjoying the beautiful sunsets at the beach. 2. They were expecting a lot of money
for their used car. 3. Her friends were sleeping in the living room when the fire alarm sounded.
4. Rosie was going to the movies.