

## Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32

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### 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.

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## **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.