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## Grammar Reference

### 1 Use of the present conditional

The **present conditional** is used:

- in a **principal clause** of which the **dependent** (often understood) is introduced by **if + preterite** and expresses a **condition** or an **assumption**.

*Example:*

**If I had** time, I'd (**would**) do many things.

- to express the idea of **future** in the **past**.

*Example:*

I **thought** she **wouldn't** come.

- to offer, ask for or state something with **politeness**.

*Example:*

**Would** you like a drink?

I'd (**would**) like to go swimming.

We **should** say he **didn't** fit the job.

### 2 Regular superlatives

The **superlative of superiority** takes the following forms.

- With **short** adjectives, '**the**' or a **possessive + adjective + '-est'** is used. (Short adjectives are those having one or — if the adjective ends in '-er,' '-ow,' '-le,' or '-y' — two syllables. Final '-y' is replaced by '-i' before '-est'.)

*Example:* She would choose **the cheapest** possible car.

I was **the lousiest** golfer on the course.

Note.

- '**-st**' is the ending for adjectives ending in '-e.'

*Example:* We have **the latest** camping equipment.

- When an adjective ends in **one vowel + one consonant**, the consonant is **doubled**.

*Example:* This is **the biggest** skyscraper in the world.

- With **long** adjectives, '**the most**' + **adjective** is used.

*Example:* These guys are **the most intelligent** I've ever met.  
It will soon be July 4th, **the most popular** American holiday.

The **superlative of inferiority** is formed using '**the least**' + **adjective**.

*Example:* She's **the least outgoing** of my friends.  
This restaurant is **the least expensive** in town.

#### Note.

- **Superlatives** are followed by 'in' before **singular nouns** describing places, and by 'of' or 'in' in other cases.

*Example:* It's **the highest** mountain **in the world**.  
He's **the kindest of my friends**.  
She's **the oldest** member **of the family**.  
She's **the richest** woman **in the family**.

- '**The**' + a **comparative** is the superlative form when only two elements are compared.

*Example:* This painting is **the prettier** of the two.  
She is **the more intelligent** of the two sisters.

### 3 Irregular superlatives

Some **adjectives** and **adverbs** have **irregular superlative** forms. The most common examples follow.

<u>Adjective or adverb</u>	<u>Irregular superlative</u>
good	the best
bad	the worst
far	the farthest/the furthest
much/many	the most
little	the least