

the oldest the most expensive

A



MOTEL PRICES IN JAMESTOWN [Per room per night]			
Best West Motel	\$135	Oak Tree Motel	\$85
Sleep Inn	\$105	Cozy Cabins	\$60
Rainbow Motel	\$95	Lake View Inn	\$50

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

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

Box A is **the biggest** box.

The Best West Motel is **more expensive than** the Sleep Inn.

The Best West Motel is **more expensive than** all the other motels in town.

The Best West Motel is **the most expensive** motel in town.

Bigger / older / more expensive, etc. are *comparative* forms (→ Unit 88).

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**

For spelling see 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** on the team.
(**the best** = the best player)

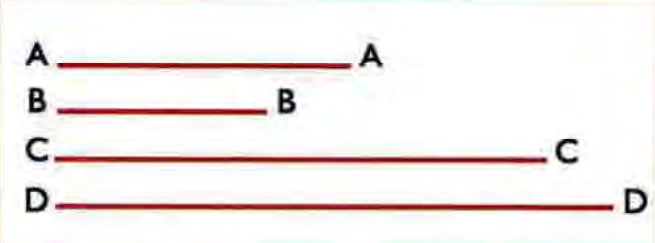
E


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


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


91.1 Write sentences with comparatives (*older*, etc.) and superlatives (*the oldest*, etc.).

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

big/small
 (A/D) A is bigger than D.
 (A) A is the biggest.
 (B) B is the smallest.

long/short
 (C/A) C is _____ A.
 (D) D is _____
 (B) B is _____

young/old
 (D/C) D _____
 (C) _____
 (B) _____

expensive/cheap
 (D/A) _____
 (C) _____
 (A) _____

good/bad
 (A/C) _____
 (A) _____
 (D) _____

91.2 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (*the oldest*, etc.).

- This building is very old. It's the oldest building in town.
- It was a very happy day. It was _____ of my life.
- It's a very good movie. 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 city. 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.

91.3 Write sentences with a superlative (*the longest*, etc.). Choose from the boxes.

Sydney	Alaska	high	city	river	Africa	South America
Everest	the Nile	large	country	state	Australia	the world
Brazil	Jupiter	long	mountain	planet	the United States	the solar system

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