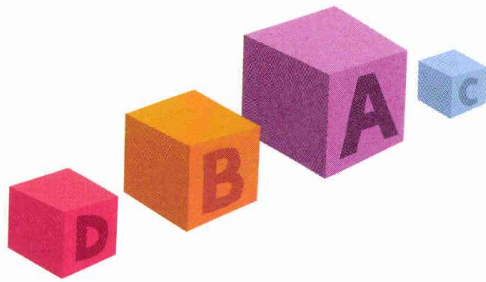


the oldest the most expensive

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	£150	Grosvenor	£110
Grand Hotel	£130	Bennets	£100
Royal	£120	Carlton	£98
Astoria	£115	Star	£85
Palace	£115	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** and **more expensive** etc. are *comparative* forms (→ Unit 87).

**Biggest** and **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:

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

E

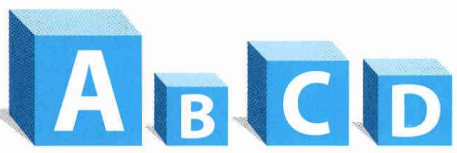
You can use *superlative* + **I've ever ... / you've ever ...** etc. :

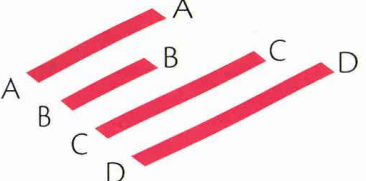
- The film was very bad. I think it's **the worst** film **I've ever seen**.
- What is **the most unusual** thing **you've ever done**?

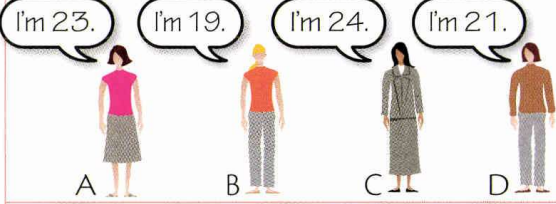


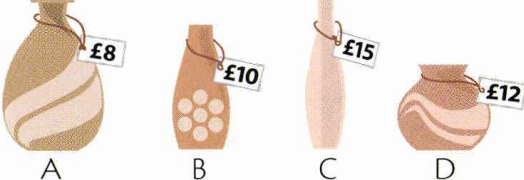
# Exercises


**90.1** 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 .....

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

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

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.

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

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