

## 15-2 The Superlative: Using *-est* and *Most*

(a) COMPARATIVE

My thumb is **shorter** *than* my index finger.

The comparative (**-er/more**) compares two things or people.

(b) SUPERLATIVE

My hand has five fingers. My thumb is **the shortest** (finger) of all.

The superlative (**-est/most**) compares three or more things or people.

	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
ADJECTIVES WITH ONE SYLLABLE	<b>old</b> <b>big*</b>	<b>older</b> (than) <b>bigger</b> (than)	<b>the oldest</b> (of all) <b>the biggest</b> (of all)
ADJECTIVES THAT END IN -Y	<b>pretty</b> <b>easy</b>	<b>prettier</b> (than) <b>easier</b> (than)	<b>the prettiest</b> (of all) <b>the easiest</b> (of all)
ADJECTIVES WITH TWO OR MORE SYLLABLES	<b>expensive</b> <b>important</b>	<b>more expensive</b> (than) <b>more important</b> (than)	<b>the most expensive</b> (of all) <b>the most important</b> (of all)
IRREGULAR FORMS	<b>good</b> <b>bad</b> <b>far</b>	<b>better</b> (than) <b>worse</b> (than) <b>farther/further</b> (than)	<b>the best</b> (of all) <b>the worst</b> (of all) <b>the farthest/furthest</b> (of all)

\* Spelling note: If an adjective ends in one vowel and one consonant, double the consonant to form the superlative: *big-biggest*, *fat-fattest*, *hot-hottest*, *thin-thinnest*.

### Exercise 12. Looking at grammar. (Charts 15-1 and 15-2)

Write the comparative and superlative forms of the given adjectives.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
1. long	<u>longer than</u>	<u>the longest</u>
2. small	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
3. heavy	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
4. comfortable	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
5. hard	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
6. difficult	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
7. easy	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
8. good	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
9. hot	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>
10. cheap	<u>                                </u>	<u>                                </u>

- |                 |       |       |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 11. interesting | _____ | _____ |
| 12. pretty      | _____ | _____ |
| 13. far         | _____ | _____ |
| 14. strong      | _____ | _____ |
| 15. bad         | _____ | _____ |

□ **Exercise 13. Looking at grammar. (Charts 15-1 and 15-2)**

Complete the sentences. Use the comparative or superlative form of the given adjectives.

1. large      The largest city in Canada is Toronto.
2. long      The Nile is \_\_\_\_\_ river in the world.
3. interesting      I'm taking four classes. My history class is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of all.
4. high      Mt. McKinley in Alaska is \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in  
North America.
5. tall      The Sears Tower is \_\_\_\_\_ building in Chicago.
6. big      Lake Superior is \_\_\_\_\_ lake in North America.
7. short      February is \_\_\_\_\_ month of the year.
8. fast      The \_\_\_\_\_ way to travel is by airplane.
9. far      Neptune is \_\_\_\_\_ planet from the sun.
10. beautiful      In my opinion, Montreal and Vancouver are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ cities in Canada.
11. famous      The Gateway Arch is \_\_\_\_\_  
landmark in St. Louis, Missouri.

