

The OLD man -vs- The OLDEST man

*This sheet is how to decide when to use a **regular** adjective or a **superlative** adjective after the word “the”*

The old man. This just says there is a man and he is old. (Regular)

The old man had many great interesting stories.

To use the superlative, you need to add things like: “in the world”, “in history”, “ever”, etc.

The oldest man. This needs to be followed by one of the expressions mentioned above (superlative):

*For superlatives, you need things like: “in the world, in history, ever, etc.

*That guy is **the oldest man** I have ever met.*

*This is **the most dangerous** place in town.*

*Decide whether you need a **regular** or a **superlative** adjective below:*

ex. This is the most expensive movie ever made. (expensive)

1. The excited children laughed and played in the pool. (**excited**)
2. I ate the bad oysters and was the sickest ever. (**bad/sick**)
3. Today is cold, but yesterday was the coldest day all week. (**cold**)
4. The entertaining and funny musical I saw on Broadway was the best musical I have ever seen. (**entertaining/funny/good**)
5. Wow! That's the gorgeous girl I saw on the train earlier today! (**gorgeous**)
6. Tom is the lonliest person I have ever met. (**lonely**)
7. Morning trains are the most crowded trains all day. (**crowded**)
8. I live behind the tall building over there. (**tall**)
9. I can't find the scary Halloween costume I wore last year. Everyone said it was the coolest costume at the crazy wild party. (**scary/cool/crazy/wild**)
10. Christmas is the happiest time for kids around the world. (**happy**)
11. The hard rain made me the wettest I've ever been in my life. (**hard/wet**)
12. Downtown is the dirtiest part of our city. (**dirty**)
13. That's the terrible guy who stole the rare painting from the oldest museum in America! (**terrible/rare/old**)
14. Who's the nice kid who helped the old woman cross the street? (**nice/old**)
15. Nelson Mandela is one of the most famous people in history. (**famous**)
16. The cruel teacher gives the hardest tests at school. (**cruel/hard**)
17. The dangerous winding mountain road is the cause of many accidents from some of the speedy drivers who use it. (**dangerous/ speedy**)
18. Disneyland calls itself “The Happiest Place on Earth!” And from the ecstatic children I saw, I think it's true! (**Happy/ ecstatic**)
19. The extensive train system in Tokyo is one of the most confusing train systems in the world. (**extensive/confusing**)