

Episode 036 – Grammar

The superlative form

Adjectives can be used to show that a living being or object has more of a certain quality than another. There are three degrees of comparison. First, there is the positive, which is the basic uncomparing degree. Then there are the comparative and superlative degrees of comparison. For the comparative and superlative, the adjectives take on special forms.

The comparative compares living beings or things and indicates a difference.

Example:

*Leipzig ist **schöner als** Niederangelbach.*

The superlative is the highest degree. It is used to show that a living being or object has the highest level of the quality expressed by the adjective.

It is formed by adding the suffix **-(e)st**.

Example:

*Der ICE ist der **schnellste** Zug in Deutschland.*

An "e" is included in the suffix for adjectives that end with emphasis on the last syllable and the last letters **d, t, s, ss, ß, sch, z, tz** or **x**. This extra "e" before the "st" makes the word easier to pronounce.

Example:

*Heinz ist **verrückteste** Mann in Niederangelbach.*

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

There is one exception: "groß"

Positive
groß

Comparative
größer

Superlative
*am gr**ö**ß**t**en*

The superlative form can follow the word it modifies by using it in combination with "am". In that case, the superlative always ends with **-en**.

am + superlative adjective **-(e)st** + ending **-en**

Example:

*Leipzig ist **am schönsten**.*

*Der ICE fährt **am schnellsten**.*

Irregular forms:

If the comparative adjective has an umlaut, then the superlative keeps it.

Positive
alt
dumm
hart
jung
kalt
warm
lang

Comparative
älter
dümm
härter
jünger
kälter
wärmer
länger

Superlative
am ältesten
am dümmsten
am härtesten
am jüngsten
am kältesten
am wärmsten
am längsten

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Note:

Positive
nah

Comparative
näher

Superlative
*am näch**st**en*

Higher, faster, more irregular!

Some superlative forms are irregular. Pay attention to these adjectives because you'll need them often!

gut – besser – am besten
viel – mehr – am meisten