Learning About Suffixes
“er and est”

Suffixes are groups of letters added to the end of other words to make new words. When a suffix is added to a word it changes how that word is used in writing. The suffixes er and est are added to adjectives or describing words to compare things.

Rules To Remember:

Rule 1: The suffix er should be used when you are comparing two things.
Example: Susan is shorter than Emily.

Rule 2: The suffix est should be used when you are comparing more than two things.
Example: Megan is the shortest girl in our class.

Rule 3: For two-syllable words ending in y (happy), the y should be dropped and an i should be added before adding the suffix est.
Example: Rosie is the funniest cat in my neighborhood.

Rule 4: For one-syllable words (fat), the ending consonant should be doubled before adding er or est.
Example: That is the fattest bird I have ever seen.

Rule 5: Words ending with the letter “e” (late), drop the “e” before adding er or est.
Example: Marge arrived at school later than Chrissy.

Use the rules above to add the suffixes er and est to the words below. Use the suffix in the ( ) after the word. Write the new word on the line.

1. thick (er) ______________________________
2. tall (est) ______________________________
3. silly (est) ______________________________
4. long (er) ______________________________
5. mad (est) ______________________________
6. friendly(er) ______________________________
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Use the rules you have learned to add the suffixes *er* and *est* to the following words. Use the suffix in the ( ) after the base word. Write the new word on the line.

1. sleepy(est) _____________________________
2. pretty (est) _____________________________
3. soft (er) _____________________________
4. crazy(est) _____________________________
5. loud (er) _____________________________
6. tough (est) _____________________________
7. bright (er) _____________________________
8. sad (er) _____________________________
9. lucky (est) _____________________________
10. nasty (er) _____________________________
11. lazy (est) _____________________________
12. tiny (er) _____________________________
13. scary (est) _____________________________
14. dark (er) _____________________________
15. strong (est) _____________________________
16. weak (er) _____________________________
17. jolly (est) _____________________________
18. fast (er) _____________________________
19. lovely (est) _____________________________
20. sweet (er) _____________________________
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Part A: Complete the chart below adding the suffixes er and est to the base word. The first one has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Word</th>
<th>Suffix “er”</th>
<th>Suffix “est”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. soft</td>
<td>softer</td>
<td>softest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. cute</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. wet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. easy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. grumpy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. thin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. smart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. big</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part B: Write the correct form of the adjectives below on the lines. Read the sentence carefully.

1. Mark is ____________________________ in math than Becky is.
   smarter        smartest

2. Addition is ________________________ than subtraction to me.
   easier   easiest

3. That is the ________________________ snake I have ever seen.
   longer  longest

4. Shelby’s cat is the ____________________________ I know.
   faster            fastest

5. Brent’s story is ___________________________ than my story.
   shorter         shortest

6. Susan’s story was the _________________________ of all.
   funnier     funniest

7. Claire’s flowers are _______________________ than my flowers.
   prettier     prettiest

8. Pluto is the _________________________ dog in our neighborhood.
   larger     largest
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Read each of the following sentences. Choose the correct word and write it on the line. Please write neatly.

1. Glenn is the ______________ player on the team.
   faster   fastest

2. I have four cats, and Missy is the ______________ of them.
   sweeter   sweetest

3. Shari is in the tenth grade, and is ______________ than Gail.
   older   oldest

4. Mrs. Taylor is the ______________ teacher in our school.
   nicer   nicest

5. My poem was ______________ than Betsy’s poem.
   longer   longest

6. Kim is ______________ than Lesley.
   taller   tallest

7. Joe’s mother was the __________ at us for what we did.
   madder   maddest

8. Susan is ______________ than Bill.
   friendlier   friendliest

   shorter   shortest

10. That was the __________ movie I have ever seen.
    scarier   scariest

11. Matt’s cupcake is ______________ than mine.
    bigger   biggest

12. Louie has the ______________ desk in our room.
    smaller   smallest

13. Ken played the drums the __________ in the parade.
    louder   loudest

14. Millie has the ______________ baby brother.
    cuter   cutest
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It’s a Quiz!
Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. I liked the poem Grant read because it’s the _____.
   a. funniest  b. funnier  c. funnyest

2. I am the _____ person in my gym class.
   a. weaker  b. weakest  c. weakiest

3. Mark is the ______ runner on the baseball team.
   a. faster  b. fastest  c. fasterest

4. My blanket is _____ than Ginger’s blanket.
   a. softer  b. softiest  c. softest

5. Who has the ______ grades in your class?
   a. higher  b. highest  c. highest

6. That was the ____ story I ever read.
   a. saddest  b. sadder  c. sadest

7. Kendra’s story was ______ than Adam’s story.
   a. longiest  b. longer  c. longest

8. Is your room ______ than my room?
   a. colder  b. coldest  c. coldier

9. Jacob is the ______ person I know.
   a. luckyest  b. luckier  c. luckiest

10. Is Mike the ______ person in your family?
    a. strongiest  b. strongest  c. stronger

11. I was the ____ after we played in the rain.
    a. wettest  b. wetter  c. wettest

12. That test was ______ than the one we had last week.
    a. easier  b. easyiest  c. easiest

13. Rebecca is ___________ than Leah.
    a. kindest  b. kindiest  c. kinder

14. The sun was ______ today than yesterday.
    a. brightest  b. brighter  c. brightiest
## Answers to Learning About Suffixes “er and est”

**Page 1:**
1. thicker
2. tallest
3. silliest
4. longest
5. maddest
6. friendlier

**Page 2:**
1. sleepiest
2. prettiest
3. softer
4. craziest
5. louder
6. toughest
7. brighter
8. sadder
9. luckiest
10. nastier
11. laziest
12. tinier
13. scariest
14. darker
15. strongest
16. weaker
17. jolliest
18. faster
19. loveliest
20. sweeter

**Page 3:**
### Part A:
1. softer  
2. cuter  
3. older  
4. wetter  
5. easier  
6. higher  
7. grumpier  
8. thinner  
9. smarter  
10. bigger  

   **sof test**
   **cutest**
   **oldest**
   **wettest**
   **easiest**
   **highest**
   **grumpiest**
   **thinnest**
   **smartest**
   **biggest**

### Part B:
1. smarter  
2. easier  
3. longest  
4. fastest  
5. shorter  
6. funniest  
7. prettier  
8. largest  

**Page 4:**
1. fastest  
2. sweetest  
3. older  
4. nicest  
5. longer  
6. taller  
7. maddest  
8. friendlier  
9. shorter  
10. scariest  
11. bigger  
12. smallest  
13. loudest  
14. cutest

**Page 5:**
1. a  
2. c  
3. b  
4. a  
5. c  
6. a  
7. b  
8. a  
9. c  
10. b  
11. c  
12. a  
13. c  
14. b