

9A Superlative facts

Activity type: Speaking and grammar – Quiz – Groups

Aim: To practise using the superlative forms of adjectives

Language: Comparatives and superlatives – Use at any point from 9.2.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners and cut up each worksheet along the dotted line.

Time: 20 minutes

- 1 Learners sit in groups of four to six, with each group divided into two teams, A and B. Give each team a worksheet matching their letter.
- 2 On each worksheet there are seven questions, each with three possible answers, the correct answer underlined. Each team works together to add the missing superlative forms to the questions using the adjectives in brackets.
- 3 The two teams in each group take it in turn to ask each other questions. Teams should tell each other whether their answers are correct or not, and reveal the correct answer if the answer given is incorrect.
- 4 When both teams have asked all their questions, they add up the number of correct answers given by their opponents in order to establish which is the winning team.

Extension: Comparatives

Ask the teams in each group to swap worksheets. Ask each team to write eight incorrect sentences using superlative forms and based on each question (e.g. 'London is the biggest city in Europe'). When they have finished, ask them to read their sentences to the other team, who have to respond by correcting each one using an appropriate comparative form (e.g. 'No, Moscow is bigger than London'). In this way, learners are given opportunities to practise using comparative forms as well.

- 1 *Moscow is the biggest city in Europe, with a population of 15 million people.*
- 2 *The most dangerous animal in the world is the mosquito, which kills 2–3 million people a year.*
- 3 *The smallest bone in the body is in your ear and is called the stirrup bone. It is only 0.25cm long.*
- 4 *The Atacama desert in northern Chile is the driest place on Earth, with less than 1 mm of rain most years.*
- 5 *The most crowded country in Europe is Malta, with 1,282 people per square kilometre.*
- 6 *Three of the six safest cities in the world (Bern, Geneva & Zurich) are in Switzerland.*
- 7 *The furthest distance from Earth an astronaut has travelled was 401,056 km during the Apollo 13 mission.*

- 1 *A British Foreign Office study concluded that the most difficult language to learn is Basque.*
- 2 *The American woodcock has been timed flying at only 8 km/h.*
- 3 *The King's Holly plant, found in the rainforests of Tasmania, was found to be over 43,000 years old.*
- 4 *The Bang Na Expressway in Bangkok, Thailand, is 54 km long.*
- 5 *The most expensive potato is "La Bonnotte" from France, which costs about €500 a kilo.*
- 6 *Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest airport by the number of landings and take-offs.*
- 7 *Joe Brower Minnoch was admitted to hospital in Seattle, USA in March 1978 weighing 635kg.*

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Team A

1 What is _____ city in Europe? (big)	A London B <u>Moscow</u> C Paris
2 What is _____ animal in the world? (dangerous)	A the crocodile B the hippopotamus C <u>the mosquito</u>
3 Where is _____ bone in the human body? (small)	A <u>the ear</u> B the hand C the foot
4 Where is _____ place on Earth? (dry)	A Australia B <u>Chile</u> C China
5 What is _____ country in Europe? (crowded)	A <u>Malta</u> B the Netherlands C England
6 In which country are three of _____ cities in the world? (safe)	A Japan B <u>Switzerland</u> C the USA
7 What is _____ distance a human has travelled from Earth? (far)	A <u>400,000 km</u> B 1,000,000 km C 10,000 km



Team B

1 What is _____ language to learn? (difficult)	A Hungarian B Chinese C <u>Basque</u>
2 What is the speed of _____ flying bird? (slow)	A 20 km/h B <u>8 km/h</u> C 2 km/h
3 How old is _____ living thing on Earth? (old)	A <u>40,000 years</u> B 250,000 years C 500 years
4 Where is _____ bridge in the world? (long)	A Saudi Arabia B <u>Thailand</u> C China
5 How much is _____ potato in the world? (expensive)	A <u>€500 a kilo</u> B €10,000 a kilo C €100 a kilo
6 Which is _____ airport in the world? (busy)	A Tokyo, Japan B <u>Atlanta, USA</u> C Mexico City, Mexico
7 What was the weight of _____ man in the world? (heavy)	A <u>630 kilos</u> B 220 kilos C 480 kilos