



Comparatives & Superlatives: Superlative Adverbs & Modifiers

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. Of all the students, Maria speaks English ____.
a) more fluently
b) the fluentliest
c) most fluently
d) the most fluently
2. Tom runs ____ than David.
a) more quickly
b) the most quickly
c) the quickest
d) most quickly
3. China is ____ the most populated country in the world.
a) too
b) by far
c) very
d) so
4. Of all the drivers, she braked ____.
a) hardest
b) harder
c) the hardest
d) the most hard
5. This is ____ the best restaurant in town.
a) very
b) so
c) more
d) easily
6. India is the ____ most populated country in the world.
a) next
b) two
c) second
d) other
7. This route takes ____ time of all the options.
a) less
b) the fewest
c) fewer
d) the least
8. He works ____ of anyone in the office.
a) hardest
b) the most hardly
c) the hardest
d) harder
9. This hotel is ____ the most luxurious one we've stayed in.
a) much
b) so
c) very
d) too
10. She sings ____ than her sister.
a) more beautifully
b) the most beautifully
c) beautifuller
d) most beautifully
11. This exercise has ____ questions of all the sets.
a) less
b) the fewest
c) fewer
d) the least

12. São Paulo is the ____ largest city in the Americas.
a) three
b) third
c) most
d) next
13. Of all my colleagues, James arrives at work ____.
a) the earliest
b) earliest
c) the most early
d) earlier
14. This task requires ____ effort of all the assignments.
a) less
b) the least
c) fewer
d) the fewest
15. He is ____ the tallest person I have ever met.
a) by far
b) too
c) so
d) very
16. This machine works ____ of all the models.
a) more efficiently
b) most efficiently
c) efficienter
d) the most efficiently
17. K2 is the ____ highest mountain in the world.
a) most
b) second
c) other
d) two
18. This problem is ____ difficult than the last one.
a) the least
b) least
c) less
d) the less
19. The tortoise moved ____ of all the animals in the race.
a) more slowly
b) slower
c) most slowly
d) the most slowly
20. That was ____ the worst decision he has ever made.
a) so
b) too
c) easily
d) very



Answers

1. d) the most fluently
2. a) more quickly
3. b) by far
4. c) the hardest
5. d) easily
6. c) second
7. d) the least
8. c) the hardest
9. a) much
10. a) more beautifully
11. b) the fewest
12. b) third
13. a) the earliest
14. b) the least
15. a) by far
16. d) the most efficiently
17. b) second
18. c) less
19. d) the most slowly
20. c) easily



Explanations

1. “the most fluently” (d)

'Fluently' is a -ly adverb, so we use 'most' for the superlative: the most fluently. 'Of all the students' signals a superlative.

2. “more quickly” (a)

We are comparing two people, so we use the comparative 'more quickly', not the superlative. Use comparatives with 'than'.

3. “by far” (b)

'By far' is the most common modifier used to emphasise superlatives. It means 'to a very great degree': by far the most populated = much more populated than all others.

4. “the hardest” (c)

'Hard' as an adverb has the same form as the adjective. Its superlative is 'the hardest' (not 'the most hard'). 'Of all the drivers' requires a superlative.

5. “easily” (d)

'Easily' is a modifier meaning 'without doubt'. 'Easily the best' = clearly the best, with no close competition. We cannot use 'very' or 'so' to modify superlatives.

6. “second” (c)

We use ordinal numbers (second, third, fourth) before superlatives to indicate ranking: the second most populated = number two in population.

7. “the least” (d)

'Time' is uncountable, so we use 'the least' (not 'the fewest'). 'The least' is the superlative of 'little' for uncountable nouns.

8. “the hardest” (c)

'Hard' (adverb) takes -est: the hardest. Note: 'hardly' means 'almost not' — a completely different word! 'Of anyone' signals a superlative.

9. “much” (a)

'Much' can modify superlatives to add emphasis: much the most luxurious = significantly more luxurious than all others. We don't use 'very' with superlatives.

10. “more beautifully” (a)

We are comparing two people, so we need the comparative 'more beautifully', not the superlative. Use 'more + -ly adverb + than' for comparisons of two.

11. “the fewest” (b)

'Questions' is countable, so we use 'the fewest' (not 'the least'). 'Few' → fewer → fewest for countable nouns.

12. “third” (b)

We use ordinal numbers before superlatives for rankings: the third largest city = ranked number three by size.

13. “the earliest” (a)

'Early' changes y to i and adds -est: earliest. As an adverb, 'the earliest' is correct. 'Of all my colleagues' requires a superlative.

14. “the least” (b)

'Effort' is uncountable, so we use 'the least' (superlative of 'little'). 'Of all the assignments' signals a superlative context.

15. “by far” (a)

'By far' strongly emphasises the superlative. 'By far the tallest' = much taller than everyone else. We cannot use 'very' with superlatives.

16. “the most efficiently” (d)

'Efficiently' is a -ly adverb, so we use 'the most efficiently' for the superlative. 'Of all the models' signals a superlative.

17. “second” (b)

We use ordinal numbers before superlatives for rankings: the second highest = ranked number two. Mount Everest is the highest; K2 is the second highest.

18. “less” (c)

We are comparing two things, so we use the comparative 'less difficult', not the superlative 'the least difficult'.

19. “the most slowly” (d)

'Slowly' is a -ly adverb, so the superlative is 'the most slowly'. 'Of all the animals' requires the superlative form.

20. “easily” (c)

'Easily' modifies superlatives to mean 'without any doubt'. 'Easily the worst' = clearly the worst, with no competition. We don't use 'very' or 'too' with superlatives.