Superlatives

The basics

Look at the following examples:

- 1. US university tuition fees are the highest in the world.
- 2. Compared to number of hours of lectures and tutorials in the UK, the US and France, French have **the longest** working week.

HIGH, and LONG are short adjectives with 1 syllable. In the superlative form, you add – est.

3. According to research published in 2017, students from Central America are **the happiest** on the planet.

HAPPY is an adjective with 2 syllables BUT it ends in -y. You add - est and pay attention to the spelling: $-y \rightarrow -i$

4. A university in the US will not only be looking for <u>the most intelligent</u> applicants, but also <u>the most well-rounded</u> and <u>most involved</u> in other fields such as music, sport and community service.

INTELLIGENT, WELL-ROUNDED, INVOLVED are longer adjectives with 2 or more syllables. You add **the most + adjective.**

5. In the Shanghai Ranking, Oxford and Cambridge are considered to be among **the best** universities in the world.

BEST is superlative form of GOOD.

Exceptions

Like in French, some adjectives are irregular in their superlative form

Adjectives	Superlative Form
Good	The best
Bad	The worst
Far	The farthest/furthest
Little	The Least
Much	The most

• One of the...

Look at the following examples:

1. Cambridge University is **one of the most prestigious** universitie**s** in the world but also **one of the most difficult** universitie**s** to get into.

The expression = one of the + (superlative form) + (noun in its plural form).