

# Puzzling Out Comparatives and Superlatives

## Levels

Intermediate

## Aims

Practice comparatives and superlatives while building vocabulary

## Class Time

45 minutes

## Preparation Time

Varies

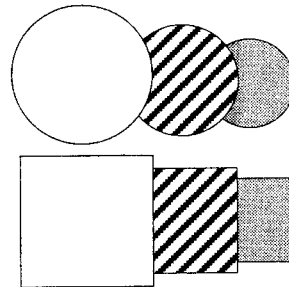
## Resources

Puzzles (see Appendices)

A crossword puzzle creates a stimulating problem-solving environment for practicing comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs.

## Procedure

1. Draw three circles and three rectangles of different sizes on the chalkboard, and label them 1, 2, and 3. The circles and rectangles on the board should be drawn with overlapping to simulate *farther* and *closer* objects, as in.



2. Use these objects to illustrate one object as *closer/farther* than another, and one as the *farthest/closest* one.
3. Point out to students that comparatives and superlatives are derived from adjectives or adverbs. Single syllable comparatives (e.g., *fast*) end in *-er* (*faster*), while words of two or more syllables (e.g., *important*) remain the same and may be preceded by the word *more* (*more important*). Also point out that single syllable superlatives (e.g., *fast*) end in *-est* (*fastest*), while words of two or more syllables (*important*) remain the same and are preceded by the words *the* and *most* (*the most important*).

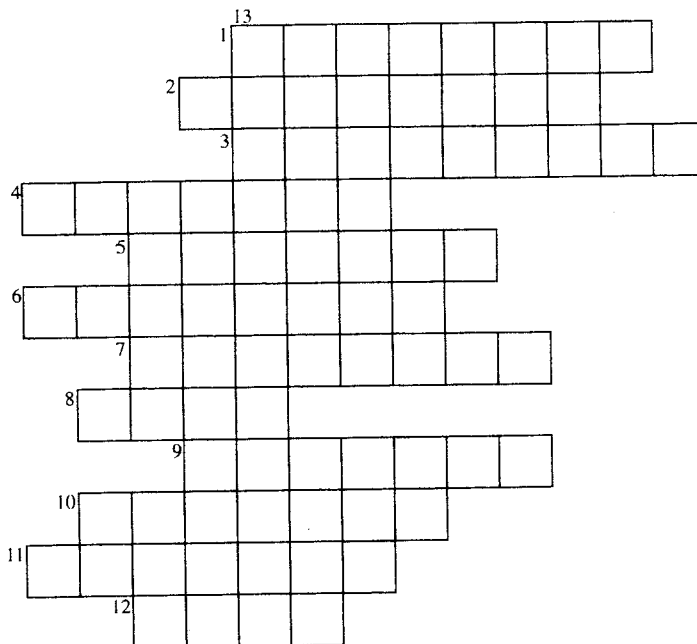
## Caveats and Options

### Appendix A: A Crossword Puzzle Using *-est, most*

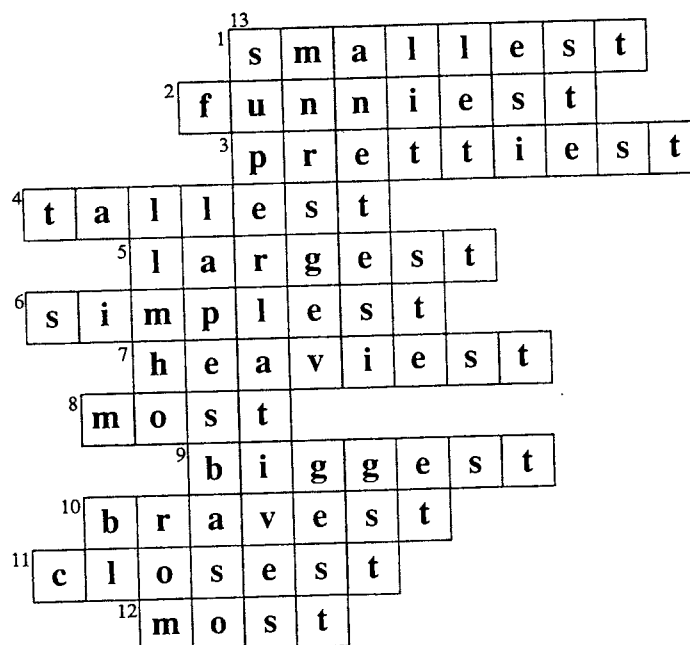
4. After a brief explanation, and before giving out the puzzle, call on students individually to use comparatives and superlatives to compare the circles and boxes on the chalk board.
5. Give the students the clues and the puzzle to work on in pairs—one set per pair—to ensure that they will need to work together to solve it.
6. Check the students' productions orally or on an overhead transparency.

This exercise makes use of the four language skills. It calls for the student to listen to the explanation of comparatives and superlatives. It gives them an opportunity to communicate orally when working on the crossword puzzle and also to practice reading and writing to finish the task.

## S U P E R L A T I V E S



# SUPERLATIVES



Instructions: Fill in the blanks with a superlative.

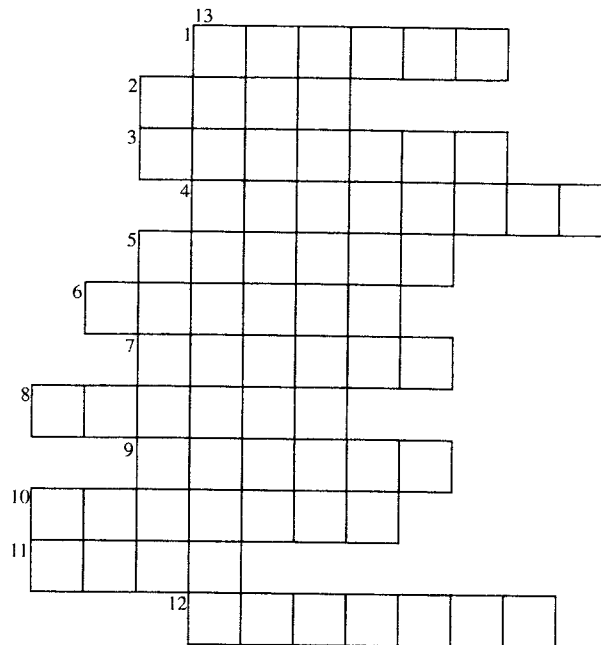
## Clues

1. Sue is smaller than anyone else in the class. She is the \_\_\_\_\_ of her classmates.
2. Yuko is very funny. She is the \_\_\_\_\_ girl in our class.
3. pretty, prettier, \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mike is taller than his brothers. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ one of all three.
5. Larry's hotel has a 25-foot TV screen. It is very large. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ TV screen in town.
6. The last test was simple. It was the \_\_\_\_\_ test this year.

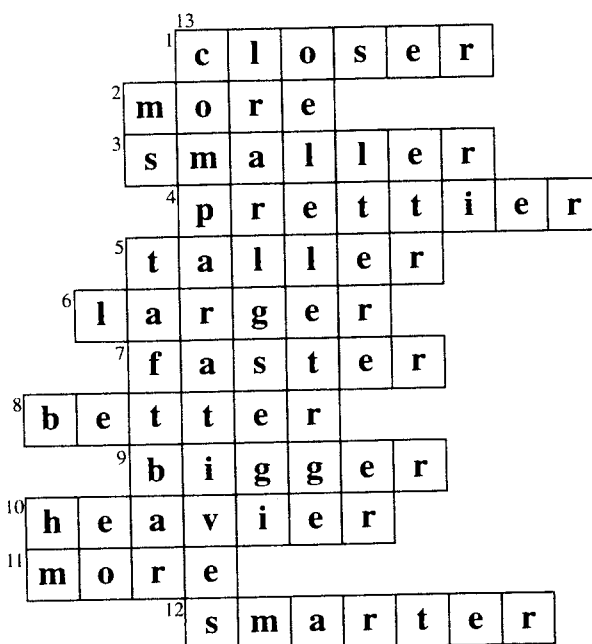
**Appendix B:**  
**A Crossword**  
**Puzzle Using**  
**-er, more**

7. Sam, the wrestler, weighs more than anyone else on the team. He is very heavy. Sam is the \_\_\_\_\_ wrestler on the team.
8. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ important test I will ever have to take.
9. Juan is big. Mike is bigger, but Al is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all.
10. brave, braver, \_\_\_\_\_
11. close, closer, \_\_\_\_\_
12. Washington State is the \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful state in the United States.
13. When we add *-est* to adjectives, they are called \_\_\_\_\_.

**C O M P A R A T I V E S**



## COMPARATIVES



Instructions: Fill in the blanks with comparatives.

## Clues

1. Sue lives three blocks from school. She lives very close. Jane lives six blocks from school. Sue lives \_\_\_\_\_ to school than Jane.
2. This book is \_\_\_\_\_ important than that book.
3. Adults are big. Babies are small. Babies are \_\_\_\_\_ than adults.
4. Ann is pretty, but Mary is much \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Kim is 6 feet tall. Kiyo is 5 feet tall. Kim is \_\_\_\_\_ than Kiyo.
6. The sun is very large. It is much \_\_\_\_\_ than the earth.
7. Emad can run one mile in 7 minutes. He can run very fast. Ali can run a mile in 6 minutes. Ali can run \_\_\_\_\_ than Emad.
8. good, \_\_\_\_\_, best

## Contributor

9. My home is small. Your home is big. Your home is \_\_\_\_\_ than mine.
10. Gold is very heavy. Aluminum is very light. Gold is \_\_\_\_\_ than aluminum.
11. My watch was \_\_\_\_\_ expensive than that one.
12. Terrence got an A on the exam. Lee got a C. Maybe Terrence is \_\_\_\_\_ than Lee.
13. When we add *-er* to adjectives, they are called \_\_\_\_\_.

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