

Forming superlatives

Expressing “the biggest, smallest, nicest” etc

Expressing superlatives

- The easiest way of learning how to express superlatives, i.e. “the biggest, the smallest, the nicest,” etc, is by following these steps:
- **1. The “it / they” pronoun (Pronoun 1)**
- UMNTU YENA
- ABANTU BONA
- UMSEBENZI WONA
- IMIBUZO YONA
- IKHAYA LONA
- AMANZI WONA

Expressing superlatives

• ISIKOLO	SONA
• IZIHLANGU	ZONA
• IMOTO	YONA
• IINCWADI	ZONA
• USANA	LONA
• UBUSI	BONA
• UKUTYA	KONA

Expressing superlatives

2. ADDING ADJECTIVE FROM SMALL GROUP TO THE PRONOUN

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|--------|-----------|--|
| • YENA | UMNTU | OM KHULU (him, the big person) |
| • BONA | ABANTU | ABA DALA (them, the old people) |
| • WONA | UMSEBENZI | OM NINZI (it, the amount of work) |
| • YONA | IMIBUZO | EMI DE (them, the tall trees) |
| • LONA | IKHAYA | ELI KHULU (it, the large home) |
| • WONA | AMANZI | AMA NINZI (it, the lot of water) |
| • SONA | ISIKOLO | ESI KHULU (it, the big school) |

Expressing superlatives

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| • ZONA | IZIHLANGU | EZI DALA (them, the old shoes) |
| • YONA | IMOTO | ENT SHA (it, the new car) |
| • ZONA | IIMOTO | EZIN TLE (them, the beautiful cars) |
| • LONA | USANA | OLU HLE (it, the beautiful baby) |
| • BONA | UBUSUKU | OBU DE (it, the long night) |
| • KONA | UKUTYA | OKU NINZI (it, the lot of food) |

Expressing superlatives

3. ADDING ADJECTIVE FROM LARGE GROUP

• YENA	UMNTU	O LAMBILEYO (him, the hungry person)
• BONA	ABANTU	ABA NOBUBELE (them, the friendly people)
• WONA	UMSEBENZI	O NOMDLA (it, the interesting work)
• YONA	IMIBUZO	EN ZIMA (them, the difficult questions)
• LONA	IKHAYA	ELI KUDE (it , the distant home)
• WONA	AMANZI	A SHUSHU (it, the hot water)
• SONA	ISIKOLO	ESI KUFUTSHANE (it, the nearby school)

Expressing superlatives

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| • ZONA | IZIHLANGU | EZI MDAKA (them, the dirty shoes) |
| • YONA | IMOTO | EDURU (it, the expensive car) |
| • ZONA | IIMOTO | EZI DURU (them, the expensive cars) |
| • LONA | USANA | OLU THANDEKAYO (it, the loveable baby) |
| • BONA | UBUSUKU | OBU MNYAMA (it, the dark night) |
| • KONA | UKUTYA | OKU MNANDI (it the nice food) |

Expressing superlatives

4. FORMING SUPERLATIVES FROM THE LARGE GROUP

- Take first vowel of noun e.g. “u” > “o”
 - Place “o” before pronoun
 - Delete first vowel of noun plus adjective
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|--------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • YENA | UM NTU | OM KHULU (the biggest person) |
| • BONA | AB ANTU | ABA DALA (the oldest people) |
| • WONA | UM SEBENZI | OM NINZI (the most work) |
| • YONA | IM IBUZO | EM IDE (the tallest trees) |
| • LONA | IK HAYA | ELI KHULU (the biggest home) |
| • WONA | AMA NZI | AMA NINZI (the most water) |

Expressing superlatives

• SONA	ISI KOLO	ESI KHULU (the biggest school)
• ZONA	IZI HLANGU	EZI DALA (the oldest shoes)
• YONA	IM MOTO	ENT SHA (the newest car)
• ZONA	IIM MOTO	EZIN TLE (the most beautiful cars)
• LONA	U SANA	OLU HLE (the most beautiful baby)
• BONA	UBU SUKU	OBU DE (the longest night)
• KONA	UKU TYA	OKU NINZI (the most food)

Expressing superlatives

5. FORMING SUPERLATIVES FROM THE LARGE GROUP

- Take first vowel of noun e.g. “u” > “o”
- Place “o” before pronoun
- Delete first vowel of noun plus adjective (where the link in red consists of two or more letters)
- Where link in red consists of one letter, replace with subject link (see “umntu”)

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|--------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| • YENA | UMNTU | OLAMBILEYO (the hungry person) |
| • BONA | ABANTU | ABANOBUDELE (the friendliest people) |
| • WONA | UMSEBENZI | ONOMDLA (the most interesting work) |

Expressing superlatives

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|--------|-----------|--|
| • YONA | IMIBUZO | ENZIMA (the most difficult questions) |
| • LONA | IKHAYA | ELIKUDE (the furthest home) |
| • WONA | AMANZI | ASHUSHU (the hottest water) |
| • SONA | ISIKOLO | ESIKUFUTSHANE (it, the closest school) |
| • ZONA | IZIHLANGU | EZIMDAKA (the dirtiest shoes) |
| • YONA | IMOTO | EDURU (it, the expensive car) |

Expressing superlatives

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|--------|---------|--|
| • ZONA | IIMOTO | EZIDURU (the most expensive cars) |
| • LONA | USANA | OLUTHANDEKAYO (the most loveable baby) |
| • BONA | UBUSUKU | OBUMNYAMA (the darkest night) |
| • KONA | UKUTYA | OKUMNANDI (the nicest food) |