Superlative Adjectives- Reversi Memory Games
Instructions for teachers

Choose which set of cards you want to use with your class and cut up one set per group of two to four students. Cut off the left-hand column with the explanations (to keep and use later), but don't cut between the two other columns – leave the opposites or synonyms connected to each other. Give out the cards and ask students to fold them so that there are synonyms or antonyms on each side, taking a quick look at both sides as they do so. It doesn't matter which side is up as they lay the folded cards on the table before they start playing the game.

To play the game, students must choose a card and guess what is on the other side, then turn over and check. They must get exactly what is on the other side, but if there is more than one option (divided by a slash) just one of the options is enough (i.e. they don't need to say all the words that are written there). If they guess correctly, they can do the same with other cards, continuing until they make a mistake. If they guess something which isn't on the other side of the card, play passes to the next person. The next person can do the same cards as the previous person did, different cards, or (probably) a mix of the two. Cards which were guessed correctly stay turned over, to be guessed in the opposite direction the next time.

There are three different ways of scoring the game:
- Students choose any cards they like each time, and the longest string of correct guesses in a row during the game (e.g. one player doing seven cards in a row before making a mistake) wins the game
- Students choose any cards they like each time, and the total number of correct guesses over the whole game wins the game (added up together, with each correct guess of the same card also counting as a point, e.g. 23 correct guesses over the length of the game)
- Students lay the cards in a single column on the table to represent a ladder, and must start at the bottom of the ladder each and every time, with the person who first reaches the top or gets highest before the teacher stops the game winning

If students get stuck, you can give them a minute or two to look at both sides of all the cards and/ or work together rather than competing (but with the same game rules).

After finishing the game, ask students to unfold the cards and group together cards by which make the superlative the same way (just looking at the words in italics, because the other ones follow different rules). Then give them the descriptions in the left-hand column of the table to match to each of those groups to help. Students check with an un-cut-up version of the worksheet, then test each other (orally) in pairs.

Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers
Opposites version

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="7">one syllable + est</td><td><i>the broadest/ the widest</i></td><td>the narrowest</td></tr>
<tr><td><i>the longest</i></td><td><i>the shortest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>the most powerful/ <i>strongest</i></td><td><i>the weakest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td><i>the highest/ tallest</i></td><td><i>the lowest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td><i>the loosest</i></td><td><i>the tightest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td><i>the bluntest</i></td><td>the most pointed/ <i>sharpest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>the gentlest<i>/ smoothest</i></td><td><i>the roughest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">one syllable + double letter + est</td><td><i>the biggest/</i> largest</td><td>the smallest</td></tr>
<tr><td>the coolest/ coldest</td><td><i>the hottest/</i> warmest</td></tr>
<tr><td>the thickest/ <i>fattest</i></td><td><i>the thinnest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td>the driest</td><td><i>the wettest</i></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">the most + one syllable</td><td>the most boring</td><td><i>the most fun/</i> most interesting</td></tr>
<tr><td><i>the most fake</i></td><td><i>the most real</i></td></tr>
<tr><td><i>the most bored</i></td><td>the most excited/ most interested</td></tr>
</table>

two syllables + est	the noisiest	*the quietest*
	the most complicated/ most difficult/ hardest/ trickiest	the easiest/ *the simplest*
the most + two syllables	*the most local*	the most cosmopolitan/ most international
	the most relaxing	*the most stressful*
	the most careful	*the most careless*
	the most tiring	the most energising
	the most worthwhile	*the most pointless*
the most + three or more syllables	the cheapest	*the most expensive*
	the most dangerous/ riskiest	the safest
	the most personal/ most private	the most public
	the most modern	*the most traditional/ old-fashioned*

-y changes to –iest	*the earliest/* soonest	the latest
	the happiest	*the unhappiest/* saddest
	the cleanest	*the dirtiest*
	the most serious	*the silliest*
	the nastiest	the nicest
	the most beautiful/ best looking/ most handsome/ *prettiest*	*the ugliest*
Irregular	the best	*the worst*
	the closest/ nearest	the farthest/ *furthest*
	the eldest/ oldest	the youngest

Synonyms version
Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers

one syllable + est	*the broadest*	*the widest*
	the fastest	*the quickest*/ speediest
	the highest	*the tallest*
	the neatest	the tidiest
	the most powerful	*the strongest*
one syllable + double letter + est	*the hottest*	the warmest
	the biggest	the largest/ bulkiest
the most + one syllable	the most entertaining	*the most fun*
	the most confused	*the most lost*
two syllables + est	*the simplest*	the easiest
the most + two syllables	*the most tiring*	the most exhausting
	the most afraid	*the most frightened*/ most scared
	the kindest	*the most caring*
	the most concerned	*the most nervous/ most worried*

the most + three or more syllables	the priciest	*the most expensive*
	the most important	*the most significant*
	the most disgusting	*the most revolting*
	the most delicious	the tastiest
	the most fashionable	the trendiest
-y changes to –iest	*the noisiest*	the loudest
	the richest	*the wealthiest*/ most loaded
	the angriest/ most irritated	the most annoyed
	the most dangerous	*the riskiest*
	the most amusing	*the funniest*
Irregular	*the furthest*	the farthest
	the oldest	*the eldest*
	the best looking/ prettiest	the most beautiful
	the best known	the most famous
	the best value	the most reasonable