Unit 19

♦ Troubles at Work
♦ Superlatives
♦ Making a Date
♦ Superlatives – Good / Bad
Min was sitting in the cafeteria when Ivan saw her. She looked upset. He sat down with her, and she told him that she was depressed. She really wanted to be a nursing assistant. She was worried about how to tell her parents that she wanted to quit her job at the restaurant. Ivan told her that if her parents want her to be happy, they will have to understand her decision to quit her job.

When Amir arrived, he was very happy. He got an A on his business exam. He got the highest score in the class. Min and Ivan told Amir their problems. Min was upset, and Ivan had a terrible problem with Stefan, his cousin and boss. He was the worst person to work for. He made Ivan work extra hours and refused to pay him more money. Also, he threatened to fire Ivan if Ivan took a part-time job. Amir told Ivan to talk to a lawyer immediately. Ivan didn’t want Stefan to know. Amir promised to introduce Ivan to a lawyer and not tell Stefan.

1. Was Min upset?

____________________________________________________________________

2. Who didn’t want Min to quit her job at the restaurant?

____________________________________________________________________

3. Why was Amir so happy?

____________________________________________________________________

4. What did Ivan’s boss threaten to do to Ivan?

____________________________________________________________________

5. Who did Amir tell Ivan to talk to?

____________________________________________________________________
SUPERLATIVES — PART 1

We use the superlative form of an adjective when we compare one thing to two or more other things.

Examples:

Julie is the youngest person in our family.  
Harry is the heaviest boy in his class.

To make the superlative form, we add est to adjectives that have one or two syllables. Sometimes we have to change the spelling of the adjective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>small &gt; smallest</th>
<th>hot &gt; hottest</th>
<th>funny &gt; funniest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nice &gt; nicest</td>
<td>heavy &gt; heaviest</td>
<td>wide &gt; widest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The superlative form of an adjective always has the before it.

Examples:

She is the happiest person I know.

It is the hottest day of the year.
Fill in the blanks with the superlative form of these adjectives.

1. This is the _________________ (small) apartment in the building.

2. This is the _________________ (cheap) watch on the shelf.

3. This is the _________________ (hot) salsa in Los Angeles.

4. This is the _________________ (heavy) box in the room.
5. This is the ___________________ (large) stove in the store.

6. Sally is the ___________________ (nice) girl in our group.

7. Fred is the ___________________ (happy) person at school.

8. Mark is the ___________________ (tall) boy in the pool.
Jose and Gustavo were gardening at a customer’s big house, and Jose asked Gustavo about his girlfriend. Gustavo said he didn’t have a girlfriend, but Jose knew that Gustavo liked Min. She was from the country of Vietnam. Gustavo told Jose that Min was the prettiest and most intelligent woman that he knew. He didn’t ask her out on a date because he didn’t have time to go out with her.

Jose didn’t believe Gustavo’s excuse. There was always time for love.

1. Where were Gustavo and Jose?

2. Who did Gustavo like?

3. Did Gustavo ask her out on a date?

4. How did Gustavo describe Min?

5. Where was Min from?
Gustavo was embarrassed to tell Jose that he didn’t have enough money to take Min out. It costs a lot to go out on a date. Movies, restaurants and flowers are expensive. Jose asked about Min. Was she nice? Was she sensitive? Gustavo said yes. Jose told Gustavo that there were lots of things to do that didn’t cost money: a bike ride, for example, or a walk in the park. Gustavo agreed that Jose was right. Jose always gave the best advice.

Life wasn’t easy for Jose and Marta when they first came to this country, so Jose understood Gustavo’s problems. Jose decided to talk to Mr. Rigo, his boss, and to tell him that he needed a full-time assistant. He didn’t guarantee Gustavo a full-time job, but he agreed to talk to Mr. Rigo.

1. Why didn’t Gustavo ask Min out on a date?

___________________________________________________________________

2. Name one activity that Gustavo can do for no money.

___________________________________________________________________

3. Did Jose understand Gustavo’s situation?

___________________________________________________________________

4. Did Gustavo like Jose’s advice?

___________________________________________________________________

5. What did Jose decide to tell Mr. Rigo?

___________________________________________________________________
VOCABULARY

Study the following definitions.

- advice  a recommendation on what to do about a problem
- appetizer  something you eat before the entree, like soup or salad
- boardwalk  a walkway along the beach
- charming  nice, funny, happy
- clumsy  not careful, careless
- date  a romantic evening
- dessert  something sweet that you eat after dinner
- entree  the main part of a meal
- guarantee  a promise by a company that something is high quality
- meal  breakfast, lunch, dinner
- prefer  to choose one thing over another because it’s better
- vegetarian  a person who doesn’t eat meat
Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the new vocabulary.

1. Amir likes Tanya. He thinks she’s beautiful and wants to ask her out on a ____________________________.

2. I ______________________ a used car over a new car because a used car is cheaper.

3. At the restaurant, Tanya doesn’t order any meat because she’s a ________________________.

4. Most people eat three ________________________ a day: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

5. Chocolate cake and pudding are _________________________. You eat them after a meal.

6. Soup and salad are _________________________. You eat them before the entree.

7. Spaghetti, steak and spicy chicken are _________________________. They are the main course in a meal.

8. Tanya thinks Amir is very ______________________ because he always smiles. He’s friendly, nice and he always makes her laugh.

9. Jamie got fired from the restaurant because he’s a ________________________ waiter. He always spills water on the customers, and breaks cups and dishes.

10. When a company promises that one of its products is high quality, and that you can have your money back if you are not satisfied with it, that promise is a _________________________.

11. On the ________________________ at the beach, you can walk with your friends and visit restaurants and shops or just look at the beautiful view.

12. If you have a problem at a school, you can ask the school counselor for _________________________.

Amir and Tanya went to a restaurant. Amir was so nervous that he knocked over his water glass and spilled the water. He was clumsy and embarrassed, and he told Tanya that this was probably the worst date of her life. Tanya thought it was the best because Amir was the funniest and most charming man that she knew. He just needed to relax.

Amir asked Tanya to share a steak with him. Tanya didn’t want to do that because she was a vegetarian. She didn’t eat beef, pork, chicken or fish. Amir didn’t know what foods Tanya ate. She read the menu and suggested the eggplant and tofu casserole. Amir agreed to try it.

1. Where were Tanya and Amir?

____________________________________________________________________

2. Was Amir nervous?

____________________________________________________________________

3. Did Tanya think Amir was charming?

____________________________________________________________________

4. What foods didn’t Tanya eat?

____________________________________________________________________

5. What food did Tanya suggest?

____________________________________________________________________
A FIRST DATE — PART 2

After dinner, Tanya asked Amir if he enjoyed the casserole. He said it was fine, but Tanya knew he preferred steak. She asked him about his new life in America. He told her that it was difficult to live in another country, but he met a lot of special people that made him happy to be here. He was talking about Tanya.

Tanya understood that Amir liked her. She liked him, too. She started to pay for dinner, but he stopped her. She insisted because she invited him. He agreed to pay for their second date. Tanya was happy to hear this because she wanted to go out with Amir again. Tanya charged the dinner on a credit card.

1. Did Amir prefer tofu or steak?

____________________________________________________________________

2. How was Amir’s new life in America?

____________________________________________________________________

3. Did Tanya want to have another date with Amir?

____________________________________________________________________

4. Who paid for dinner?

____________________________________________________________________

5. How did she pay for dinner?

____________________________________________________________________
MAKING A DATE

Read the following dialogues.

Dialogue 1
A. Are you doing anything Saturday night?
B. No. Why?
A. I have two tickets to the Gypsy concert. Would you like to go?
B. Sure! That sounds like fun. What time is the concert?
A. The concert is at 8:00 pm. I’ll pick you up at 7:15 pm.
B. OK. See you then!

Dialogue 2
A. Would you like to go to the movies Friday night?
B. Oh, I’m sorry. I’m busy. I have to babysit. How about Saturday night?
A. OK. That’ll be fine. What would you like to see?
B. I don’t know what’s playing. Let’s look in the paper.
A. Good idea!

Dialogue 3
A. Would you like to go to the beach Sunday?
B. Sure! That sounds like fun. What time do you want to go?
A. Let’s go early. We can have breakfast at a café on the boardwalk.
B. Sounds great!
Choose the correct words from the box to fill in the blanks.

Would  idea  great  time  newspaper
sounds  see  busy  pick  tomorrow

Dialogue 1

A. _____________________________ you like to go to the movies Saturday night?

1.

B. Sure! That __________________________ like fun.

2.

A. What would you like to __________________________________?

3.

B. Let’s look in the ______________________________ to see what’s playing.

4.

A. OK. Good __________________________!

5.

Dialogue 2

A. Would you like to go to the beach ____________________________?

6.

B. I’m sorry. I’m _________________________ tomorrow. How about Sunday?

7.

A. That’ll be fine. What __________________________ do you want to go?

8.

B. Let’s go after lunch.

A. OK. I’ll __________________________ you up at 1:30 pm.

9.

B. Sounds __________________________!

10.
SUPERLATIVES — PART 2

To make the superlative form of some two-syllable adjectives and adjectives with more than two syllables, we put the most before the adjective.

Example:

the most wonderful          the most interesting
the most beautiful          the most charming

Fill in the blanks with the superlative form of the following adjectives.

1. Gustavo is _________________________________ (handsome) man Min knows.
2. Min is _________________________________ (intelligent) woman Gustavo knows.
3. Marta is _________________________________ (responsible) worker at the garage.
4. Amir is _________________________________ (honest) employee at the office.
5. Rosalba is _________________________________ (beautiful) girl in her family.
6. This is _________________________________ (exciting) movie I ever saw.
7. That was _________________________________ (interesting) book I ever read.
8. This is _________________________________ (boring) class I ever attended.
9. Ivan is _________________________________ (careful) maintenance man in Los Angeles.
10. This is _________________________________ (expensive) watch in the store.
SUPERLATIVES — GOOD / BAD

The superlative form of good is the best. The superlative form of bad is the worst.

Example:

This is the best restaurant in the neighborhood.

This is the worst coffee I ever drank.

Fill in the blanks with the superlative forms of good and bad.

1. John is ____________________________ (good) soccer player on the team.
2. Soo is ____________________________ (good) jeweler in town.
3. This restaurant has ____________________________ (bad) Mexican food in the city.
4. This is ____________________________ (bad) date I ever had.
5. Russia has ____________________________ (good) athletes in the world.
FOCUSED LISTENING WORKSHEET

Watch the video section called “Focused Listening.”
Then circle the correct answer in each group.

SCENE 1
What will Tanya have for an entree?
   a. She will have salad for her entree.
   b. She will eat chocolate cake for an entree.
   c. She will have spaghetti for her entree.

Look at the menu and list each food item under one of the three categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MENU</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>salad</td>
<td>spaghetti</td>
<td>ice cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lamb chops</td>
<td>chicken</td>
<td>soup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chocolate cake</td>
<td>pudding</td>
<td>steak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appetizers          | Entrees              | Desserts
____________________|____________________|____________________
____________________|____________________|____________________
____________________|____________________|____________________
____________________|____________________|____________________
UNIT 19 TEST

Choose the correct answers.

1. Rosalba is the _______________________ person in Marvin’s shop.
   a. prettier
   b. prettiest
   c. more pretty

2. Our house is the _________________________ one in this neighborhood.
   a. big
   b. bigger
   c. biggest

3. It’s one hundred and five degrees. This is the ___________________ day of the summer.
   a. hottest
   b. hotter
   c. most hot

4. Ferraris are the _______________________ cars in the world.
   a. more expensive
   b. most expensive
   c. very expensive

5. I think this chocolate cake is the ________________________ cake in the bakery.
   a. very delicious
   b. more delicious
   c. most delicious

6. Mrs. Robinson is the ________________________ manager in the company.
   a. very nice
   b. most nice
   c. nicest

7. This is a good restaurant. In fact, it’s the _____________________ restaurant in the city.
   a. better
   b. worst
   c. best

8. Joseph never studies. He’s the _________________________ student in the class.
   a. worse
   b. worst
   c. best
UNIT 19 TEST

9. Melinda always studies. She’s the ______________________ student in the class.
   a. worst
   b. better
   c. best

10. This apartment is cold and dirty. It’s the __________________ apartment in the building.
    a. worst
    b. worse
    c. good

11. I think Eva is very beautiful and charming. I want to ask her out on a ________________.
    a. movie
    b. dinner
    c. date

12. Hi Eva. _____________________ you like to have dinner with me?
    a. Do
    b. Would
    c. Did

    a. sounds
    b. sound
    c. is

14. I always eat three ________________________ a day: breakfast, lunch and dinner.
    a. foods
    b. entrees
    c. meals

15. When I have a problem, I usually ask my parents for ________________________.
    a. advice
    b. something
    c. money

16. I love cakes and pies, but I usually ______________________ to eat ice cream because I
    like cold desserts.
    a. order
    b. prefer
    c. have
UNIT 19 TEST

17. Our store will ________________ that your new stereo will not have any problems for one year.
   a. promise
   b. sell
   c. guarantee

18. Susan is beautiful, funny and very nice. She’s a very ________________ person.
   a. charming
   b. serious
   c. successful

19. Peter doesn’t eat meat. He’s a _________________.
   a. not hungry
   b. vegetarian
   c. clumsy

20. I’ll eat dinner, but I won’t eat ________________ tonight because I’m on a diet. I need to lose weight.
    a. dessert
    b. entree
    c. food
SUPERLATIVES — PART 1  
(pages 52 & 53)  
1. smallest  
2. cheapest  
3. hottest  
4. heaviest  
5. largest  
6. nicest  
7. happiest  
8. tallest  

SUPERLATIVES — PART 2  
(page 62)  
1. the most handsome  
2. the most intelligent  
3. the most responsible  
4. the most honest  
5. the most beautiful  
6. the most exciting  
7. the most interesting  
8. the most boring  
9. the most careful  
10. the most expensive  

SUPERLATIVES — GOOD / BAD  
(page 63)  
1. the best  
2. the best  
3. the worst  
4. the worst  
5. the best  

FOCUSED LISTENING  
(page 64)  
1. c  

MENU  
(Appetizers | Entrees | Desserts)  
salad | spaghetti | ice cream  
soup | lamb chops | chocolate cake  
chicken | steak | pudding  

MAKING A DATE — PART 1  
(page 61)  
1. Would  
2. sounds  
3. see  
4. newspaper  
5. idea  
6. tomorrow  
7. busy  
8. time  
9. pick  
10. great  

VOCABULARY  
(page 57)  
1. date  
2. prefer  
3. vegetarian  
4. meals  
5. desserts  
6. appetizers  
7. entrees  
8. charming  
9. clumsy  
10. guarantee  
11. boardwalk  
12. advice