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When we think about expressing the highest quality, excellence, or superior status, we often use the word “best.” However, the English language brims with a plethora of synonyms that can convey the same sentiment as “best” with subtle nuances that can add variety and depth to our conversations and writings. Best Synonyms PinBest Synonyms - Created by 7ESL What Is “Best”? “Best” is an adjective that we use to describe the highest quality or degree of something. It’s the superlative form of “good” and “better” and signifies the utmost excellence or effectiveness in a comparison. List of Synonyms for Best Optimal Unsurpassed Superior Unmatched Peerless Unrivaled Supreme Prime Top-notch Preeminent Matchless Incomparable Outstanding Exceptional Elite Exemplary First-rate World-class Paramount Superlative Unexcelled Transcendent Foremost Premier First-class Finest Ultimate Pinnacle Superb Splendid Unbeatable Leading Champion Top-tier High-quality A-1 Ace Terrific Fabulous Marvelous Fantastic Splendiferous Stellar Sublime Magnificent Perfect Impeccable Flawless Consummate Distinctive Choice Select Primo Exquisite Nonpareil Number one Top of the line Top-drawer Top-class High-grade Grade A Unimpeachable Capital Chief Prize Major Maximum Record-breaking Blue-ribbon Five-star Gold-standard State-of-the-art Leading-edge Pioneering Innovative Cutting-edge Trailblazing Revolutionary Top-level Distinguished Illustrious Renowned Celebrated Acclaimed Esteemed Notable Noteworthy Laudable Admirable Respected Honored Eminent Prominent Dominant Key Pivotal Quintessential Definitive Authoritative Masterful Expert Skilled Proficient Accomplished Talented Gifted Virtuoso Adept Polished Artistic Crafted Refined Cultivated Mature Classic Timeless Enduring Perennial Legendary Iconic Epochal Seminal Landmark Benchmark Standard-setting Exemplar Archetypal Model Prototypical Ideal Paragon Epitome Peak Zenith Apex Summit Crest Climax Prowess Mastery Skillfulness Dexterity Ingenuity Creativity Originality Novelty Innovation Breakthrough Vanguard Forefront Spearhead Front-runner Trendsetter Pathfinder Trailblazer Types of Synonyms for Best Superlative Synonyms These are the words that carry the connotation of being at the highest level or degree. They are perfect for emphasizing something that is unmatched or has no parallel. Finest Supreme Preeminent Paramount Praise-worthy Synonyms Sometimes we want to express that something is the best because it is deserving of high praise or commendation. These synonyms fit the bill beautifully. Outstanding Exceptional Exemplary Laudable Leader Synonyms If we’re talking about something or someone that leads the pack, the following words are ideal for capturing the leadership quality associated with being the best. Leading Foremost Premier Top Quality Synonyms When we focus on the inherent quality that makes something the best, we often use these synonyms to drive the point home. First-rate Top-notch Grade A Elite Common Synonyms for Best Best vs. Superior Best implies the highest quality or degree among the choices available. Superior, on the other hand, suggests a comparison that indicates something is of higher quality or degree than another but might not be the single top choice. “We chose the best option for our family vacation after extensive research.” “Our team’s design was superior to the others in terms of durability but not necessarily the best in overall design.” Best vs. Excellent Best is the superlative form, indicating something is at the very top compared to all others. Excellent describes something very good or of high quality but does not necessarily mean it’s the top among all possible choices. “The best student in class consistently received top marks in all subjects.” “She gave an excellent performance, although it wasn’t the best of her career, it was memorable.” Best vs. Optimal Best conveys the idea of supreme quality or desirability in general terms. Optimal refers to the most favorable or efficient under specific conditions or for achieving a particular goal. “She made the best choice, winning over everyone with her decision.” “The optimal level of water for these plants ensures growth without over-saturation.” Best vs. Prime Best again refers to the highest quality or value in a group. Prime denotes the peak or most favorable state, often used in terms of conditions or timing. “He was the best writer of his generation, captivating audiences with each book.” “The vineyard was in its prime, producing the finest grapes we’d ever seen.” Synonyms for Best in Different Contexts Excellent for General Quality Superb: The dinner was superb, exceeding all our expectations. Outstanding: She is an outstanding scholar, recognized by all of us in her field. Superlative for Top Performance First-Class: Our team delivers first-class service to every client. Top-Notch: Your craftsmanship is absolutely top-notch. Most Suitable Ideal: The climate in this region is ideal for growing grapes. Optimal: For plant growth, six hours of sunlight is optimal. Pre-eminent for Leadership and Superiority Unsurpassed: The view from this mountain is unsurpassed by any other. Leading: As a leading authority on climate change, her opinion is highly valued. Absolute and Near Synonyms of Best Absolute Synonyms for Best Word Definition Optimal The most favorable or desirable, often the best possible choice. Finest Of the highest quality, top-ranked or top-tier. Supreme Highest in authority or the best quality, degree, or rank. Unsurpassed Not capable of being improved on or exceeded in quality or performance. Unparalleled Having no equal; exceptional or without match. Preeminent Outstanding or superior to all others. Near Synonyms for Best Word Definition Exemplary Representing the best of its kind, commendable for serving as a desirable model. Superb Of high quality or excellent, suggesting it approaches the best. Elite A select part of a group that is superior to the rest in terms of ability or qualities. Outstanding Standing out from the rest, implying the best among other good options. First-rate Of the highest quality; top class, but not necessarily the absolute best. Peerless Without an equal, though often used to suggest the best in a more poetic sense. Synonyms for Best with Examples | Infographic PinSynonyms for Best - Created by 7ESL Frequently Asked Questions What word can I use instead of ‘best’? When you’re seeking a direct substitute for ‘best’, words like “superior,” “premier,” and “finest” convey a similar meaning and can be used interchangeably in most cases. Can you give me a list of words similar to ‘best’? Certainly! Words similar to ‘best’ include “optimum,” “unsurpassed,” “exemplary,” and “matchless.” Each of these suggests a high level of quality or performance. What are some informal terms that mean ‘very best’? In an informal setting, you might describe something as the “top-notch,” “top-shelf,” or simply “the greatest.” These terms are perfect for casual conversations where a relaxed tone is preferred. What are some elaborate words that convey the sense of being better than good? For instances where you want to express the sense of being better than good with a touch of sophistication, consider “par excellence,” “preeminent,” or “transcendent.” What expressions are commonly used to say ‘best of the best’? To signify something that is the ‘best of the best’, phrases like “crème de la crème,” “the gold standard,” or “the elite” are often used to denote the highest possible tier or quality. Are there any synonyms that capture the essence of ‘best friend’? Indeed, synonyms that encompass the essence of ‘best friend’ include “confidant,” “true friend,” “trusted companion,” or “bosom buddy,” each reflecting the deep and enduring bond of such a relationship. Related Links: Browse#aabbccddeeffgghhijjkkllmmnnnooppqrrssttuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC superlative form of good: most good. I can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. c. 1596-1598 (date written), William Shakespeare, “The Merchant of Venice”, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies [...] (First Folio, London: [...]) Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, –OCLC, [Act I, scene ii], page 163, column 1:[...] when he is beft, he is a little worfe then a man, and when he is worft, he is little better than a beaft: 1667, John Milton, “Book V”, in Paradise Lost. [...]. London: [...] [Samuel Simmons], and are to be sold by Peter Parker [...]; [a]nd by Robert Boulter [...]; [a]nd Matthias Walker, [...]. –OCLC; republished as Paradise Lost in Ten Books: [...]. London: Basil Montagu Pickering [...]. 1873, –OCLC, line 19:Heav'ns laft beft gift, my ever new delight, 2011 October 7, Lana Del Rey, Justin Parker, “Video Games”, in Born to Die, performed by Lana Del Rey:Swinging in the backyard Pull up in your fast car whistling my name Open up a beer And you say get over here and play a video game [...] I say you the bestest Lean in for a big kiss, put his favorite perfume on Go play your video game 2013 August 10, Schumpeter, “Cronies and capitol’s”, in The Economist, volume 408, number 8848:Policing the relationship between government and business in a free society is difficult. [...] Governments have to find the best people to fill important jobs: there is a limited supply of people who understand the financial system, for example. But governments must also remember that businesses are self-interested actors who will try to rig the system for their own benefit.Most superior; most favorable. In my opinion, mushrooms are the best pizza toppings. adjectivesuperlative of goodIdioms jump to other results of the most excellent type or qualityThat’s the best movie I’ve ever seen!He wrote his best songs before he was 25.She was one of the best tennis players of her generation.Is that your best suit?They’ve been best friends (= closest friends) since they were children the company’s best-ever resultsWe want the kids to have the best possible education.Extra ExamplesThis is by far the best restaurant in the town.We aim to give our guests the very best attention.Who in the class is best at history?Oxford Collocations Dictionaryverbsbeconsider somethingdeem something...adverbprepositionSee full entry giving most pleasure, happiestThose were the best years of my life.Oxford Collocations Dictionaryverbsbeconsider somethingdeem something...adverbprepositionSee full entry Word OriginOld English betest (adjective), betost, betst (adverb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German best, also to better.IdiomsSee best in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee best in the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary of Academic English Nearby words Henry Bessemer bessie noun best adjective best adverb best noun magical adjective From the Word list Oxford 5000 C1 Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries Word of the Day of the highest quality, excellence, or standing.I do my best work after meditation.Singling out the student with the top GPA is not always the most effective way to find the best students.most advantageous, suitable, or desirable.We’ve investigated a number of methods, but this is the best way.most excellently or suitably; with most advantage or success.I think it will be an opera role that best suits her voice.in or to the highest degree; most fully (usually used in combination).Shakespeare’s best-known poems are his sonnets, but he also wrote narrative poems.Eleanor Roosevelt and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy remain two of the United States’ best-loved First Ladies.Your security system company can advise you about the features best suited for your home.the best, something or someone that is the most excellent, most suitable, of the highest quality, or the highest degree (often used withof ).They always demand and get the best.The best of us can make mistakes.To the best of my knowledge, this was the first use of that word in print.a person’s finest clothing.It’s important that you wear your best.a person’s most agreeable or desirable emotional state (often preceded byat ).She’s not at her best before her morning coffee, so you might want to wait a few minutes to talk to her:a person’s highest degree of competence, inspiration, etc. (often preceded byat ).He’s at his best when he works in a team.the highest quality to be found in a given activity or category of things (often preceded byat ).These gorgeous oak kitchen cabinets are an example of cabinetmaking at its best.the maximum effort that a person, group, or thing can make.Their best fell far short of excellence.a person’s good wishes or kindest regards.Please give my best to your father:to get the better of; defeat; beat.He easily bested his opponent in hand-to-hand combat.She bested me in the argument,the superlative of goodmost excellent of a particular group, category, etcmost suitable, advantageous, desirable, attractive, etcmost ofto do one’s utmost to make progress to betst (adverb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German best, also to better.IdiomsSee best in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee best in the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary of Academic English Nearby words Henry Bessemer bessie noun best adjective best adverb best noun magical adjective From the Word list Oxford 5000 C1 Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries Word of the Day of the highest quality, excellence, or standing.I do my best work after meditation.Singling out the student with the top GPA is not always the most effective way to find the best students.most advantageous, suitable, or desirable.We’ve investigated a number of methods, but this is the best way.most excellently or suitably; with most advantage or success.I think it will be an opera role that best suits her voice.in or to the highest degree; most fully (usually used in combination).Shakespeare’s best-known poems are his sonnets, but he also wrote narrative poems.Eleanor Roosevelt and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy remain two of the United States’ best-loved First Ladies.Your security system company can advise you about the features best suited for your home.the best, something or someone that is the most excellent, most suitable, of the highest quality, or the highest degree (often used withof ).They always demand and get the best.The best of us can make mistakes.To the best of my knowledge, this was the first use of that word in print.a person’s finest clothing.It’s important that you wear your best.a person’s most agreeable or desirable emotional state (often preceded byat ).She’s not at her best before her morning coffee, so you might want to wait a few minutes to talk to her:a person’s highest degree of competence, inspiration, etc. (often preceded byat ).He’s at his best when he works in a team.the highest quality to be found in a given activity or category of things (often preceded byat ).These gorgeous oak kitchen cabinets are an example of cabinetmaking at its best.the maximum effort that a person, group, or thing can make.Their best fell far short of excellence.a person’s good wishes or kindest regards.Please give my best to your father:to get the better of; defeat; beat.He easily bested his opponent in hand-to-hand combat.She bested me in the argument,the superlative of goodmost excellent of a particular group, category, etcmost suitable, advantageous, desirable, attractive, etcmost ofto do one’s utmost to make progress to hurry“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012the superlative of well 1in a manner surpassing all others; most excellently, advantageously, attractively, etc(in combination) in or to the greatest degree or extent; mostas effectively as possible within one’s limitationswould be wise, sensible, etc, to“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012the most outstanding or excellent person, thing, or group in a category(often preceded by at) the most excellent, pleasing, or skilled quality or conditionthe most effective effort of which a person or group is capableeven their best was inadequatea winning majorityAlso: all the best, best wishesa person’s smartest outfit of clothingin the most favourable interpretationunder the most favourable conditionsfor an ultimately good outcomewith good intentionsto surpass, defeat, or outwit; betterto concede someone’s superiorityto cope as well as possible in the unfavourable circumstances of (often in the phrases make the best of a bad job, make the best of it)informal six strokes with a cane on the buttocks or hand“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Charles Herbert . 1899-1978, Canadian physiologist: associated with Banting and Macleod in their discovery of insulin in 1922George . 1946-2005, Northern Ireland footballer“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012American-born Canadian physiologist who assisted Frederick Banting in the discovery of the hormone insulin. In acknowledgment of his work, Banting shared his portion of the 1923 Nobel Prize with Best. In addition to further refining the use of insulin, Best later discovered the vitamin choline and the enzyme histaminase, which breaks down histamine.Origin of Best1First recorded before 900; Middle English beste, Old English betst, best; cognate with Dutch best, Old High German bezzist ( German best ), Old Norse bezt, Gothic batists; better 1, -est 1Origin of Best1Old English betst; related to Gothic batista . Old High German bezzistIdiomsthe best part of, most of.Repairing the window took the best part of a day.at best, under the most favorable circumstances.You may expect to be treated civilly, at best.all for the best, for the good as the final result; to an ultimate advantage: Also for the bestIt turned out to be all for the best, though at the time we didn’t realize it.make the best of, to cope with in the best way possible.The rain makes it a lot harder to have a picnic, but we know how to make the best of a bad situation.as best one can, in the best way possible under the circumstances.We tried to smooth over the disagreement as best we could.get / have the best of, to gain the advantage over, to defeat, subdue.His allergies get the best of him from time to time.best of both worlds, the most excellent or desirable parts of two things combined, especially two things that might otherwise be difficult to reconcile.With a quiet rural atmosphere and a short commute time into the city, this suburb is ideal for office workers who want the best of both worlds.had best, would be wisest or most reasonable to; ought to.You had best phone your mother to tell her where you are going with the best, on a par with the most capable.He can play bridge with the best.Examples have not been reviewed.At best, Arenas may be cleared to return late in his freshman season.“The doctors said: ‘The best thing for you to do is to pack up, really. Get another job, do something else.’” Iommi wrote in his autobiography, Iron Man.The run was his 96th of the year, best in the majors.She added a sensible approach to hybrid working would help the Welsh government “recruit and retain the brightest and best”.Former England defender Steph Houghton added: “I honestly thought from Spain’s point of view she was definitely their best player and she’s got them through to their first-ever European Championship final.”Definitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Bessiebest-ballBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhijjkkllmmnnnooppqrrssttuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Etymology Adjective Middle English best, beste, going back to Old English betst, best, (as weak adjective) betsta, betesta, going back to Germanic \*batista-, superlative degree of the adjective seen in the comparative \*batizōn better entry 1, whence also Old Frisian best, bēst “best.” Old Saxon betst, best, Old High German bezzisto, Old Icelandic bezt, baztr, Gothic batista Adverb Middle English, going back to Old English betst, betest, derivative of betst, best best entry 1 Noun Middle English, going back to Old English betste, derivative of betst, best best entry 1 Verb derivative of best entry 1, after better entry 2 Auxiliary verb by ellipsis from had best First Known Use Adjective before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1 Adverb before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1 Noun before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 2 Verb 1863, in the meaning defined above Auxiliary Verb 1897, in the meaning defined above Time Traveler The first known use of best was before the 12th century See more words from the same century

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