Comparative and Superlative Modifiers

- Adjectives and adverbs have three forms or degrees. The first form, the positive degree, is used to describe people, places, actions, or things.
  Pablo Neruda is a famous poet. He writes brilliantly.
- The comparative form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare two things or actions.
  In his poem “Tonight I Can Write . . . ,” Pablo Neruda repeats the verb love more frequently than any other verb.
- The superlative form is used to compare more than two things or actions.
  His descriptions of night are the most vivid I have read in a long time.
- Some modifiers, such as those shown below, have irregular comparative and superlative forms. (Irregular forms are usually included with the main entry in a dictionary.)
  little, less, least much, more, most

Exercise: Using Comparative and Superlative Forms

Underline the correct modifier to complete each sentence.

1. Pablo Neruda is Chile’s (more famous, most famous) poet.
2. He began writing at an (earlier, earliest) age than most other poets.
3. His family was (less enthusiastic, least enthusiastic) than Pablo about his literary ambitions.
4. When he became (more popular, most popular) than he was at first, their attitude surely changed.
5. Few poets were (more productive, most productive) than Neruda.
6. Of all the times in his life, he had to work the (harder, hardest) when he served as ambassador to France.
7. Trying to find time for his writing was his (more difficult, most difficult) challenge.
8. Even those Chilenos (less familiar, least familiar) with his poetry were aware of his greatness.
9. His countrymen felt (more deeply, most deeply) than ever that he was a hero.
10. Receiving the Nobel Prize was Neruda’s (greater, greatest) literary achievement.