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Which is correct, "I like you the best" or "I like you best"? And I hear "I like you most" is incorrect, so which is correct, "I love you most" or "I love you best"? Are there any rules that which one should be used? Best v the best-You are the best at tennis" v "You are best at tennis" These mean the same, although both of them have a range of meanings. They could mean that you're better at tennis than other people in the room, or on the team, or at your school, or in the world. Alternatively, they could mean that you're better at tennis than at any of the other sports you play - without specifying that you're better at tennis than other people. "You are the best" v "You are best" If the statement was made in the context of a particular discussion (for example, about tennis), the two would have the same meaning (and the same range of meanings that we saw in the previous examples). However, "You're the best!" as a complete sentence can also be an expression of gratitude, meaning "You're awesome!" - whereas "You're best" rarely if ever has this meaning. "Choose the book you like the best." "Choose the book you like best." These mean the same. "Choose the book you like the most." "Choose the book you like most." These mean the same. "She walks most gracefully." v "She walks the most gracefully." "She walks the most gracefully" usually means that she walks more gracefully than other people (although which particular group of other people is ambiguous or dependent on context, as with the tennis example). Alternatively, it could mean that she walks more gracefully than she performs other activities - this is unusual, but would be clear from the context. "She walks most gracefully" could be a synonym for "She walks very gracefully". But "she walks most gracefully" could also be used to mean "she walks the most gracefully". So, the version without the "the" carries both meanings (or sets of meanings). I have come across the below sentence: Watching sports is a very social pastime and best experienced at the place where the match is unfolding. I believe here "best" is used as an adverb. But I am not familiar with this usage of "best". Can somebody clear me on how to use this word as an adverb and the appropriate structure with it? The confusion arises because the word best can be used as any of several different parts of speech. On the linked page, best is used as an adverb, modifying the verb knew. In that context, the phrase the best can also be used as if it were an adverb. The meaning is approximately the same in that case. In the following sentence, however, best is an adjective: "What was best?" If we insert the word the, we get a noun phrase, the best. You could certainly declare that after comparing a number of things, you found that a particular one of those things was the best. That is to say, it was better than any of the others. So if you knew someone who had tried going up, going down, going left, and going right, you could ask them for their evaluation of the relative benefits of each of those actions: "Which was the best?" (Note that I would say which rather than what.) Assuming that the passage in the question is about the thinking of someone who is faced with choosing a course of action to take, not evaluating the outcome of an action already taken, I would use best as an adjective. What was best? To go left or right, up or down? Yes "it" can be used in all of those constructions and others, but some of the examples could use adjustments. For number 2, depending on the intended meaning I would suggest: It would have been best to have bought it yesterday. This implies that the speaker is talking about an alternative that did not happen, but should have - a form of the subjunctive. If the intent is to say that it did happen, and to approve of that, then it could be worded as: It's best that he bought it yesterday, or it's good that he bought it yesterday. 2a has a quite different meaning, implying that what is being approved of is not that the purchase be made, but that he is the one to make it. 3 "It's best (if) he (not) buy it tomorrow." is not a subjunctive form, and some options do not work well. 3A It's best he buy it tomorrow the verb tense is wrong with 3A. Better would be: 3A1. It's best that he buys it tomorrow. This form assumes or suggests that the purchase will happen, and approves of it. 3A2 It would be best if he buys it tomorrow. This makes no such assumption. Indeed it suggests doubt over the event. 3B "It's best if he buy it tomorrow. again does not work. In general the form "he buy it tomorrow" has the wrong tense. The apparent sense of 3B could be expressed with 3B1 It would be best if he buys it tomorrow. 3B2 It will be best if he buys it tomorrow. 3B3 It's best that he will he buy it tomorrow. 3B1 expresses doubt over the event, indeed expects it not to happen. 3B2 expresses uncertainty, it might or might not happen. 3B3 expects that it will happen. The variants of 3 including "not" simply change the event from buying to not buying, but are otherwise the same, and the same options are available. 4 It's best if he bought it tomorrow. again has the wrong tense. This should be one of the 3B variants (3B1, 3B2, or 3B3). 5 It's best if he had bought it yesterday. This should not use "It's" which is after all simply "it is". Instead this idea CAN BE expressed by the adjusted form of 2 above. 6 It's best if he were buying it right now. should use "would be" instead of "is" (here 's), so: 6A It would be best if he were buying it right now. 6A is a subjunctive, because it implies that he is not doing so. As for 7, use 3A1 instead. This is the best car in the garage. We use articles like the and a before nouns, like car. The word "best" is an adjective, and adjectives do not take articles by themselves. Because the noun car is modified by the superlative adjective best, and because this makes the noun car definite in this context, we use the. It is best not to do something. Here, we have the adjective best, but this adjective is attached to no noun. The adjective best is used in a copular construction with the dummy pronoun it. This pronoun does not refer to any object. There's no noun that we can attach the to here. Your original is correct as-is, except you need to remove the question mark at the end because it's not a question. What I imagine you are already thinking: The sentence ends with a string of "wh-" noun clauses. These clauses are not questions, so the last one should also not be a question. "Which one is the best" is obviously a question format, so it makes sense that "which one the best is" should be the correct form. This is very good instinct, and you could even argue that the grammar is good, but at best it's unnatural. When we replace the superlative "the best" with the normal version, we get this: "I am going to cover which one good is. I hope we can both agree this sentence is wrong because "good" is an adjective, and cannot be the subject of "is". The same is true when you put "the best" in that spot. It's easy to argue that "the best" could be correct as the subject since superlatives are often used as nouns (as in "The best is this one" where "the best" stands for "the best one"), but when reworded into a noun clause, superlatives only feel like adjectives, so "which one the best is" doesn't work. Now, you might be thinking that "which one is the best" cannot be correct since it's a question format. The answer is that like many other similar phrases, the question format and the noun clause format look the same: Which hammers are on sale? (question format) I'm hoping you can tell me which hammers are on sale. (non-question format) I'm hoping you can tell me which hammers on sale are. (bad grammar) For a more thorough explanation of why the two formats look the same, see JavaLette's answer and note that "the best" is a complement. Which one is correct: "Something suits your needs the best" or "Something best suits your needs"? 1 "Ever" means "of all time", but the exact meaning changes with the tense. When used in the present, "ever" includes up to the present. When used in the past, it may include the present, or it may only include the time up to that point in the past. So, "It is the best ever" means it's the best of all time, up to the present. "It was the best ever" means either it was the best up to that point in time, and a better one may have happened since then, or it includes up to the present. So, "Michael Jordan was the best player of all time" could mean that at he was once considered the best player of all time, but someone else has since surpassed him, or it could mean he is still the best of all time, just no longer active. As a native BrE speaker I wouldn't use either of those. I would say: "This is the best song I've ever heard" I'm not sure if the two examples you have are grammatically incorrect, as such (I could see those sentences constructed like that - or at least understand what was meant). They just don't seem very idiomatic to me as a BrE speaker. "This is the best [x] ever!" Without the 'that I've heard' the second one would be very idiomatic to say in conversation. best ever [x] I (personally) wouldn't use this type of phrasing - at least not in speech. "This [x] is the best ever" I would phrase it like this (or just "This is the best ever" if it's understood what this is), (Again as a native BrE speaker - I'm unsure about other jurisdictions)

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