

# Elder/Eldest vs Older/Oldest

Elder and eldest mean the same as older and oldest only they are used as a more polite way of saying the same thing. But there are some other important differences in meaning that we need to be aware of.

## Older/Oldest

We use older/oldest as the regular comparative and superlative forms to describe people and things and for **absolutes**.

- Examples :
- My car is **older** than yours. .
- He is the **oldest** man alive

## Elder/Eldest

We only use the adjectives elder and eldest before a noun (as attributive adjectives), and usually when talking about relationships within a family.

We **NEVER USE elder/eldest** as a comparative followed by **THAN**

Examples: My sister is older than me ✓

~~My sister is elder than me ✗~~

We only use elder/eldest to talk about people **NEVER to talk about things**.

Examples:

The Washington Monument is the **oldest** monument in the US capital. ✓

Not : ~~The Washington Monument is the **eldest** monument in the US capital. ✗~~

## Elder

We use ELDER when we **speak about two** family members such as brothers , sisters, cousins, etc.

Examples :

- My **elder** son, his **elder** daughter.
- The **elder** of the two sons / The **elder** of the two.

## Eldest

We use eldest when we speak about **three or more** family members.

Examples:

- His **eldest** brother is five years older than he is.
- I'm the **eldest** of three children.
- Her **eldest** child is nearly 10.

# Elder/Eldest vs Older/Oldest

## TEST

1. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ man in the village.
2. My \_\_\_\_\_ brother is a doctor.
3. She is \_\_\_\_\_ than me. older
4. This is Antonio, the duke's \_\_\_\_\_ son.
5. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ boy in the class.
6. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ church in London.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ city in France is Marseilles.
8. Ryan Giggs is \_\_\_\_\_ player on Manchester United.
9. She is \_\_\_\_\_ of four siblings.
10. My \_\_\_\_\_ relative is 94 years old.