

ADJECTIVES

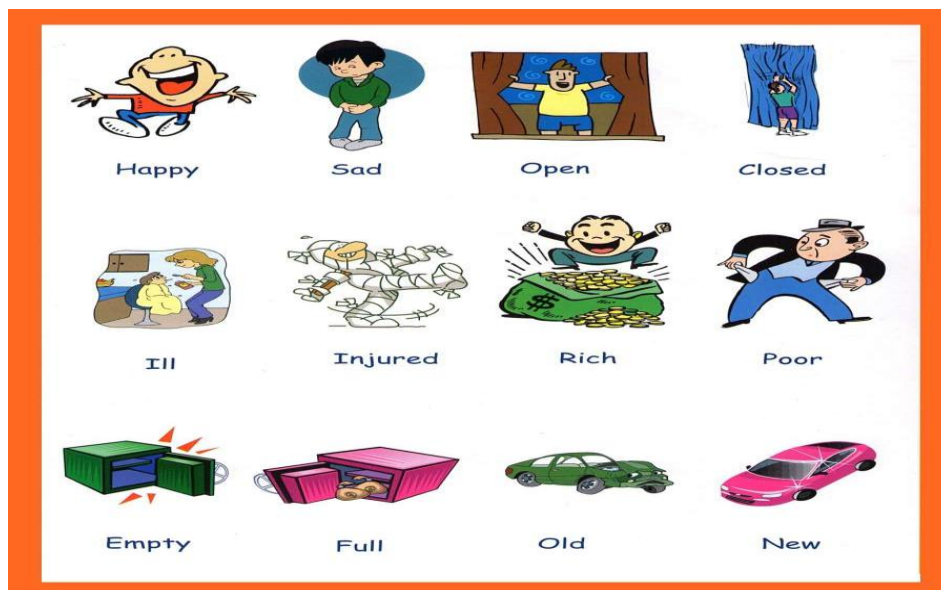
Lesson – 3

- Adjectives are words that describe or modify another person or thing in the sentence. It is a word that is used to add something to the meaning of a noun or a pronoun.

Examples:-

In the following examples, the highlighted words are adjectives:

- The truck-shaped balloon floated over the treetops.
- Mrs. Morrison papered her kitchen walls with hideous wall paper.
- The small boat foundered on the wine dark sea.
- The coal mines are dark and dank
- Many stores have already begun to play irritating Christmas music.
- A battered music box sat on the mahogany sideboard.
- The back room was filled with large, yellow rain boots.



- The **Articles – a, an, and the – are adjectives.**
- In linguistics, an **adjective** (abbreviated **adj**) is a **describing word, the main syntactic role of which is to qualify a noun or noun phrase, giving more information about the object signified.**
- Adjectives are one of the English parts of speech, although historically they were classed together with the nouns. Certain words that were traditionally considered to

be adjectives, including *the, this, my*, etc, are today usually classed separately, as **determiners**.

- **Examples :-**
 - the tall professor
 - the lugubrious lieutenant
 - a solid commitment
 - a month's pay
 - a six-year-old child
 - the unhappiest, richest man
- **Examples :-**
 - That's an **interesting** idea. (**attributive**)
 - That idea is **interesting**. (**predicative**)
 - Tell me something **interesting**. (**postpositive**)
 - The **good**, the **bad**, and the **ugly**. (**substantive**)

Types of use

- Attributive adjectives are part of the noun phrase headed by the noun they modify for example, *happy* is an attributive adjective in "happy people". In some languages, attributive adjectives precede their nouns; in others, they follow their nouns; and in yet others, it depends on the adjective, or on the exact relationship of the adjective to the noun. In English, attributive adjectives usually precede their nouns in simple phrases, but often follow their nouns when the adjective is modified or qualified by a phrase acting as an adverb.

Example: "I saw three happy kids", and "I saw three kids happy enough to jump up and down with glee."

- Predicative adjectives are linked via a copula or other linking mechanism to the noun or pronoun. happy" and in "that made me happy."

Nominative Adjectives

- Nominal adjectives act almost as nouns. One way this can happen is if a noun is elided and an attributive adjective is left behind. In the sentence, "I read two books to them; he preferred the sad book, but she preferred the happy", *happy* is a nominal adjective, short for "happy one" or "happy book". Another way this can happen is in phrases like "out with the old, in with the new", where "the old" means, "that which is old" or "all that is old", and similarly with "the new". In such cases, the adjective functions either as a mass noun (as in the preceding example) or as a plural

count noun, as in "The meek shall inherit the Earth", where "the meek" means "those who are meek" or "all who are meek".

TYPES OF ADJECTIVES

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES OR ADJECTIVES OF QUALITY

- Such adjectives show the kind of quality of a person or thing.

Example:-

Delhi is a large city.

He is an honest man.

Possessive adjectives

- A possessive adjective ("my," "your," "his," "her," "its," "our," "their") is similar or identical to a possessive pronoun; however, it is used as an adjective and modifies a noun or a noun phrase, as in the following sentences:
 - I can't complete my assignment because I don't have the textbook. In this sentence, the possessive adjective "my" modifies "assignment" and functions as an object.
 - What is your phone number? Here the possessive adjective "Your" is used to modify the noun phrase "phone number" the entire noun phrase "your phone number" is a subject complement.
 - The bakery sold his favourite type of bread. In this example, the possessive adjective "his" modifies noun phrase "favourite type of bread" and the entire noun phrase "his favourite type of bread" is the direct object of the verb "sold."

Possessive Adjectives





Grade : 3/ ...	Name: _____	Date : _____
© Read and complete with the correct possessive adjectives: My - your - his - her - our - their - its		
1		She is drinking soup.
2	He is eating sandwich.	
3		They are eating food.
4	It is drinking milk.	
5		I'm eating food.
6	We are eating ice-cream.	
7		You must eat food.

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Demonstrative adjectives

- The demonstrative adjectives “this,” “these,” “that,” “those,” and “what” are identical to the demonstrative pronouns, but are used as adjectives to modify nouns or noun phrases, as in the following sentences:
- When the librarian tripped over that cord, she dropped a pile of books. In this sentence, the demonstrative adjective “that” modifies the noun “cord” and the noun phrase “that cord” is the object of the preposition “over”.
- This apartment needs to be fumigated. Here “this” modifies “apartment” and the noun phrase “this apartment” is the subject of the sentence.

Note: Demonstrative adjectives answer the question – ‘which?’

Singular	 <p><u>This</u> is an apple.</p>	 <p><u>That</u> is an apple.</p>
Plural	 <p><u>These</u> are apples.</p>	 <p><u>Those</u> are apples.</p>

Interrogative adjective

- An **interrogative adjective** (“which” or “what”) is like an **interrogative pronoun**, except that it modifies a noun or noun phrase rather than standing on its own (see also demonstrative adjectives and possessive adjectives):
- **Which** plants should be watered twice a week? Like other adjectives, “which” can be used to modify a noun or a noun phrase. In this example, “which” modifies “plants” and the noun phrase “which plants” is the subject of the compound verb “should be watered”.
- What book are you reading? In this sentence, “what” modifies “book” and the noun phrase “what book” is the **direct object** of the compound verb “are reading.”

Determiners

- Linguists today distinguish determiners from adjectives, considering them **to be two separate parts of speech (or lexical categories)**, but formerly determiners were considered to be adjectives in some of their uses. In English dictionaries, which

typically still do not treat determiners as their own part of speech, determiners are often recognizable by being listed both as adjectives and as pronouns. Determiners are words that are **neither nouns nor pronouns, yet reference a thing already in context. Determiners generally do this by indicating definiteness (as in *a* vs. *the*), quantity (as in *one* vs. *some* vs. *many*), or another such property.**

Adjective phrases

- An adjective acts as the head of an **adjective phrase** or **adjectival phrase** (AP). In the **simplest case**, an adjective phrase consists solely of the adjective, more complex adjective phrases may contain one or more adverbs modifying the adjective ("very strong"), or one or more complements (such as "**worth several dollars**", "**full of toys**", or "**eager to please**"). In English, **attributive adjective phrases** that include complements typically follow the noun that they qualify ("an evildoer *devoid of redeeming qualities*").

Adjective order

- **In many languages, attributive adjectives usually occur in a specific order. In general, the adjective order in English is:¹**
 1. **Determiners** — articles, adverbs, and other limiters.
 2. **Observation** — post determiners and limiter adjectives (e.g., a real hero, a perfect idiot) and adjectives subject to subjective measure (e.g., beautiful, interesting), or objects with a value (e.g., best, cheapest, costly)
 3. **Size and shape** — adjectives subject to objective measure (e.g., wealthy, large, round), and physical properties such as speed.
 4. **Age** — adjectives denoting age (e.g., young, old, new, ancient, six-year-old).
 5. **Color** — adjectives denoting color (e.g., red, black, pale).
 6. **Origin** — denominal adjectives denoting source of noun (e.g., French, American, Canadian).
 7. **Material** — denominal adjectives denoting what something is made of (e.g., woolen, metallic, wooden).
 8. **Qualifier** — final limiter, often regarded as part of the noun (e.g., rocking chair, hunting cabin, passenger car, book cover)
- This means that in English, **adjectives pertaining to size precede adjectives pertaining to age** ("little old", not "old little"), which in turn generally precede adjectives pertaining to color ("old white", not "white old"). So, we would say "One (quantity) nice (opinion) little (size) round (shape) old (age) white (color) brick (material) house."
- **This order may be more rigid in some languages than others**; in some, like Spanish, it may only be a default (*unmarked*) word order, with other orders being permissible.

- Due partially to borrowings from French, English has some adjectives that follow the noun as **postmodifiers**, called **postpositive adjective**, as in *time immemorial* and *attorney general*. Adjectives may even change meaning depending on whether they precede or follow, as in *proper*: ***They live in a proper town*** (a real town, not a village) vs. ***They live in the town proper*** (in the town itself, not in the suburbs). All adjectives can follow nouns in certain constructions, such as ***tell me something new***.

POSITION OF ADJECTIVE

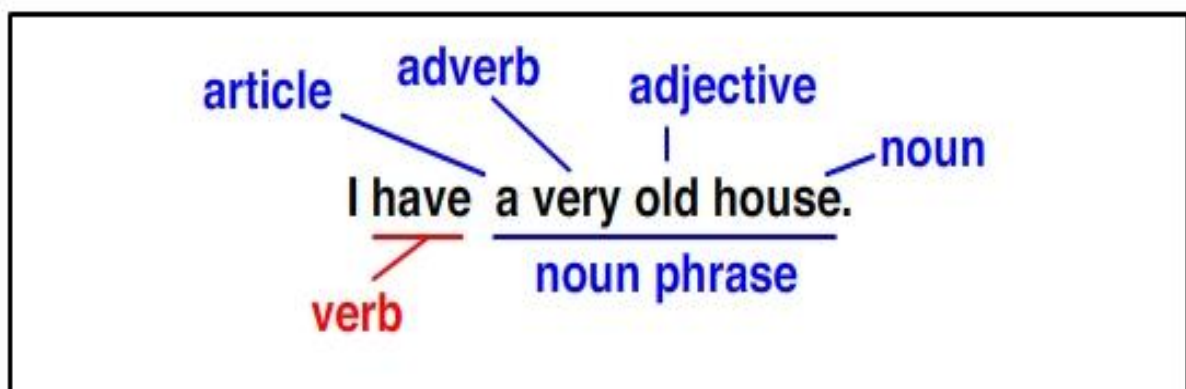
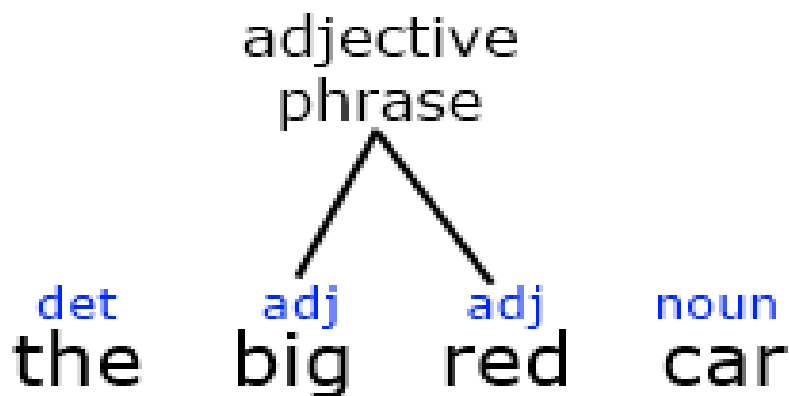
1. Adjectives nearly always appear immediately before the noun or noun phrase that they modify.
2. When indefinite pronouns – such as something, someone, anybody – are modified by an adjective, the adjective comes after the pronoun:

Example:-Anyone capable of doing something horrible to someone nice should be punished.

Something wicked this way comes.

3. There are certain adjectives that, in combination with certain words, are always “postpositive” (coming after the thing they modify):

The President elect, heir apparent to the Glitzy fortune, lives in New York proper.



INDEFINITE ADJECTIVES/ ADJECTIVES OF NUMBER

- An indefinite adjective is similar to an indefinite pronoun, except that it modifies a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase, as in the following sentences:
- Many people believe that corporations are under-taxed. The indefinite adjective “many” modifies the noun “people” and the noun phrase “many people” is the subject of the sentence.
- I will send you any mail that arrives after you have moved to Delhi. The indefinite adjective “any” modifies the noun “mail” and the noun phrase “any mail” is the direct object of the compound verb “will send.”

These adjectives show how many persons or things are meant, or in what order a person or thing stands.

Example :-

- The hand has five fingers.
- Few cats like cold water.
- There are no pictures in this book.
- Sunday is the first day of the week.

Grammar Toolkit
Number and indefinite
adjectives

Reading
EGGSPRESS

What are the missing number adjectives?





A spider has eight legs.

April is the fourth month of the year.

A pelican has two wings.

There are sixty minutes in an hour.

The runner who comes first wins a gold medal.



RULES OF ADJECTIVES

POSITIVE DEGREE

1. Comparison of equality

When equality or similarity is shown through comparison between two persons, things or qualities, we use pattern

as + adjective + as

For example,

This book is **as useful as** the other one.

2. Comparison of inequality

When inequality or dissimilarity through comparison is shown between two persons, things or qualities, we follow the following two patterns –

not as + adjective + as or **not so + adjective + as**

For example,

I was not **so tired as** my brother.

Note: If we wish to lay more emphasis on inequality, we can use quite before so.

For example,

Ram is **not quite as tall as** Shyam.

3. Concealed comparison

In some sentences comparison is not explicit (showing) but concealed in its sense. In such sentences we use –

not all that + adjectives

For example,

He is **not all that** trustworthy.

4. Comparison of actions (verbs)

In positive degree two actions can be compared in the following ways –

i. By using **Gerund**.

e.g. Walking is as difficult as running.

ii. By using **infinitive**.

e.g. It is as difficult **to walk** as **run**.

In this construction it should be remembered that the first infinitive is used with to, and the second without to.

iii. By using had better/had rather/had sooner.

e.g. They **had better pay** the **penalty to escape** sterner action

In this construction the infinitive is used twice, and each time without to. This is the correct pattern.

II. COMPARATIVE DEGREE

5. Comparison between two

Comparative degree adjective is used for comparison between two persons, things or qualities, not for more than two.

e.g. Ram is **smarter** than Mohan.

6. Use of 'than'

The connective than is used to show comparison for all adjective except those adjective shown below under 7.

e.g. Sita is **more beautiful than** Geeta.

7. Use of to

For all adjectives of Latin origin, comparison is shown by **to** (not by **than**). The more common adjectives of Latin origin are – **superior, inferior, junior, prior, anterior, posterior**. It may be remembered that generally these adjectives end with –**or**. By this sign they can be recognised. It may be remembered that '**to**' is used after **prefer/preferable** also.

e.g. I prefer tea to coffee.

His turn comes **prior to** mine. (not **than mine**)

8. Originally comparative degree

The above noted adjectives of **Latin origin (superior, inferior, junior, senior, prior, anterior, posterior)** are already of comparative degree. Therefore no attempt should be made to make their comparative degree by adding more/less or any other comparative word. Therefore, it is wrong to use such expressions as '**more superior**' or '**less superior**', '**more preferable**' or '**less preferable**' and so on. Also, as has been explained above, '**to**' is used with them, not '**than**'.

e.g. Milk is **preferable** to tea. (Not **better preferable**)

9. Double comparatives

Double comparatives should not be used. Therefore, the following expressions are wrong – more cleverer; more better; more stronger; less braver; greater higher etc.

e.g. An elephant is **stronger** (not **more stronger**) than a horse.

10. Comparing two qualities

When two qualities of the same person or thing are to be compared, the comparative degree formed by –er should not be used. In their place comparative degree should be made by adding **more** or **less** to the adjective concerned.

e.g. Gautam is **more good** than wise (not **better** than **wise**)

11. Correct Comparison

When two persons, things or qualities are to be compared, care should be taken to see that comparison is made between the correct persons or things. No wrong comparison should be made.

e.g. His house is **bigger than** hers.

12. Proper Comparison

There may be another error in correct comparison which should be avoided. When a person or thing is to be compared with another person or thing of the same class or category, and if the comparison is to be shown by a comparative adjective followed by **than**, the person or thing coming after ‘**than**’ should have **any other/all others or else** before it, otherwise the comparison would be wrong and the sentence will have no meaning.

e.g. Sarika respects Lata more than **anyone** in the college.

Note: It may further be remembered in this context **‘than other’ is used with a pronoun.** As – any other teacher, any pen, any other doctor, anyone else, everybody else, etc.

13. Comparison of number/quantity

Another error is often committed in the comparison of number and quantity. It should be remembered that **fewer is used for number**, and **less for quantity**. Fewer is always followed by countable plural noun and less by countable singular noun. But **more can be used both for number and quantity.**

e.g. He eats less butter than sugar.

Never use fewer in place of less, or less in place of fewer.

e.g. I have less pens than pencils. (wrong)

14. Comparatively + positive degree

If an adjective (or an adverb) has ‘comparatively’ before it, the adjective (or adverb) should be used in the positive degree, not in the comparative degree.

e.g. Your problem is **comparatively** easy.

15. Parallel/Gradual increase or decrease

- a. Some sentences are so constructed that its comparative degree adjective is split up and used in the two parts of the sentence as a balance. In such sentences, **comparative degree should be used in both the parts**, not comparative in one part and positive or superlative in the other.

e.g. The **harder** a man labours, the **better** returns he gets.

- b. In some sentences the same comparative adjective is repeated one after the other. The form of such sentences is as follows.

e.g. He is working **harder and harder**.

16. Positive degree + comparative degree

There are also some sentences in which both the comparative and positive adjectives are used. In such sentences, the positive degree adjective should be used with **asas** (not with **one as** only) and comparative degree adjective with **than**.

e.g. His position is **as bad as**, if not worse than yours.

17. Emphatic comparatives

Emphatic comparatives can be used in the following three ways:

- a. By using **much/far/byfar/still** before the comparative degree (but not by using **very**).

e.g. This book is **still** better.

- b. By using **rather**

e.g. This book is **rather** cheap.

- c. By using **all the**

e.g. This is **all the** better for me.

III. SUPERLATIVE DEGREE

18. The + superlative

Article **the** must be used before a superlative degree adjective.

e.g. This is **the longest** chapter in my book.

Note: But if some possessive adjective (my, our, your, his, her their) or possessive case (noun +'s) has come before the superlative, we don't use the article **the**.

e.g. This is my **most** favourite fish.

This is Ram's **highest** ambition.

19. Three or more nouns

Superlative adjective is used for comparison amongst at least three or more things or persons.

e.g. She is the **tallest** of the **three** (or more) sisters.

20. Superlative + of/in

Preposition **of** or **in** is used to show comparison amongst three or more persons or things.

e.g. He is the **most** scholarly **of all** teachers.

Remember that '**of**' is used with most of the superlative adjectives, but with the superlatives showing place we use **in** instead of '**of**'. For e.g. In the class, in the town etc.

21. Superlative + one of/among

When **one of** or **among** is used with a superlative, the noun coming after it must be of plural number.

e.g. Rachna is **one of the best girls** in the class.

22. Superlative and other

We don't use **other** with a superlative degree adjective. (It may be remembered that with a comparative degree adjective other is used when the comparison is within the same class or category, but it is not so with a superlative adjective).

e.g. He is the **ablest of all** candidates.

23. One of if not/superlative

In some sentences a superlative is used twice, once with **one of the** and again with **if not the**. In such sentences a plural noun **comes after one of the + superlative**, and a singular noun after **if not the + superlative**.

e.g. Ram **is one of the most mischievous boys, if not the most mischievous in the class.**

Note: In such sentences the singular noun coming after **if not the + superlative** is often concealed.

24. Double superlative

Double superlatives should **not** be used. The following sentences are wrong because double superlatives have been used in them.

e.g. Mr. Sharma is the **most richest** man.

25. Emphatic superlative

In order to give additional emphasis to a superlative adjective, we can use **by far the / much the /the very / out of the**.

e.g. Jaipur is **by far the most** beautiful city.

This is the **very best** institute.

26. Adjectives of the same degree

If the same noun is **qualified by two or more than two adjectives**, all these adjectives must be of the **same degree**.

e.g. I have the **best** and **cheapest** purse.

27. Non-degradable adjectives

The undernoted adjectives are already of superlative degree. They cannot be used as comparative degree adjectives, nor can the emphasising expressions such as **very/extremely/highly/much** can be used with them. These adjective are –

Unique, perfect, matchless, excellent, ideal, absolute, universal, impossible, entire, whole, full, complete, round, extreme, eternal, chief.

e.g. He is an **ideal** leader.

This plan is **perfect**.

Note: However these days full and perfect are being used in comparative and superlative degrees also. Now we can use full, fuller, and fullest, or perfect, more perfect or most perfect. This use is coming into fashion now-a-days.

e.g. I have the **fullest** sympathy with you.

28. Like best/like most

Both these uses are correct.

e.g. Which of these books do you like **most**?

Which of these books do you like **best**?

29. Kind and sort

Kind and sort are of singular number. Therefore, **this** or **that** should be used with **them**, not these or those.

e.g. I don't like **this/that** sort of men.

Note: These/those sort or these/those kind are wrong expressions, though some authors have started using them.

30. Adjectives/Adverb

Sometimes adjectives are used with verbs also, but in that case the adjectives qualify the subject of the verb. If, however, they qualify the action (verb), they should be used adverbially.

e.g. The ship appeared **suddenly** (not **sudden**).

31. Adjectives used as nouns

Sometimes adjectives are used as nouns in the following cases:

a) Represent a class of people

Sometimes a particular class of people in the plural number can be represented by an adjective preceded by the definite article **the**.

e.g. **The humble** are blessed.

b) As a singular noun representing some abstract quality

e.g. Keats was the poet of **the beautiful**.

c) Adjectives actually becoming nouns

I. Proper nouns – Canadians, Africans, Asians, Italians

II. Denoting persons – Juniors, seniors, elders, nobles, inferiors, superiors, criminals, savages.

III. In plural number only – sweets, valuables, eatables.

d) In some phrases

for good, at best, black and white, through thick and thin, for better/for worse/worst, before long, in short, from bad to worse, the long and short.

e.g. Nothing **worse** can happen.

I am prepared for the **worst**.

REVIEW

What's an adjective?

- It can also come after verbs that describe someone or something.
e.g. **'be'**, **'get'**, **'become'** etc. (called linking verbs)
A sense verb (**smell, taste, feel, look, seem** etc.)
- Our **progress** was/seemed/felt **slow**.
- His **food** tastes/smells/looks **amazing**.