**Adjectives**

An adjective is a word that modifies nouns and pronouns. It defines and describes them.

e.g : - A **tall** boy stepped from the **curious** crowd. (describing)

- **That** boy is my brother. (pointing out)

- **Twelve** children and **several** parents attended. (telling how many)

Adjectives normally come directly before the words they modify ( a **big** town , a **red** car, …), or after a linking verb ( he is **sad**, they are **excited**) but sometimes a writer places descriptive adjectives after the word they modify. **e.g** : The stallion, **long** and **lean**, galloped past us.

**Kinds of Adjectives :**

1. **Qualitative/ descriptive adjs** : fat, heavy, square, yellow, golden, clever, ….

* The **big, new, white** house has been sold.

1. **Demonstrative adjs** : this, that, these, those. (they must be followed by a noun)

* **These** *women* gossip a lot.

1. **Distributive adjs** : each, every, either, neither (they are normally used with singular nouns)+ both (used with plural nouns)

* **Each/ every** *man* carried a torch.
* **Each of** **the** *participants* received compensation.
* **Either** *book* is interesting, but I suggest the former. (“Either” implies one or the other of two options)
* **Either of** *these movies* would be interesting to me.
* **Neither** *pen* seems to work. (“Neither” implies not one or the other of two options)
* **Both** *students* have been punished by the teacher.

1. **Quantitative adjs** : all numerals+ a, some, any, many, much, little, few, no, one.

* He has **seven** apples. – He has got **many** dogs at home.
* I’ll cut you **some** bread. – I didn’t receive **any** guests recently.
* **Much** milk is let in the bottle. – I have **no** money for a meal in this restaurant.

1. **Interrogative adjs** : which, what, whose.

* **Which** book have you red lately?
* **Whose** car is this ?
* **What** papers do you read ?

1. **Possessive adjs** : my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their.

* The girls are playing with **their** dolls.

1. **Proper adjs/ adjs of nationality**: Algerian, American, French, …

**\_** She is **German.**

* I like **Italian** food.

Proper adjectives may refer also to geographical places, religions, holidays, dates, names of people or organizations, titles…: **Italian** food - **Islamic** nation - **Parisian** style – **Freudian** theories – **Shakespearian** plays

***Let’s practice*** : **Underline the adjectives in the following sentences**.

1. Today is cloudy, hot, and humid. 2. The man wearing a blue suit is young.

3. The runner is very fast. 4. He is a good basketball player.

5. Alamance Community College is a great place to learn. 6. The blue bus is late.

6. The rusty truck has an oversized trailer. 7 . Jane is so smart!

8. The job was difficult, but manageable. 9. The house has new plumbing and running water.

10. The silly man laughed uncontrollably. 11. The boy said he was sorry.

12. The intoxicated gentleman wasn’t sure if the clock was fast or slow.

**Participals used as adjectives :**

Both present participle **(ing)** and past participle **(ed)** can be used as adjectives.

* Present participle adjs are active and mean « having the effect ». We use them to talk about the person, thing, or situation which has caused the feeling.

**e.g : -** He told an **amusing** story.  **-** This is a **boring** lesson.

* Past participle adjs are passive and mean « affected in this way ». They are used to talk about how someone feels.

**e.g**. He was **amused** by the story. – He seems **bored** .

**Agreement :**

Adjectives in English have only one form, which is used with singular and plural, masculin and feminine nouns  : a **good** boy, **good** boys a good girl , good girls

The only exception are the demonstrative adjectives **this** and **that**, which change to **these** and **those** before plural nouns : **this** cat , **these** cat**s** / **that** man , **those** m**e**n

**Formation of Adjectives :**

→We can form adjectives from other parts of speech. That is by the use of suffix. The principal suffixes are : -y, -ful, -less, -en, -ous, -able, -some, -ed, -like, -al, -an, - ian, - ical, -ish.

* An adjective that ends in **-less** is the opposite of the same adjective that ends in **-ful**:

careful – careless useful – useless colorful – colorless harmful – harmless

( **-ful** *means having a lot of something*. **-less** ending *means without*)

* Some adjectives end in **–y** : a **dirty** street a **noisy** room an **oily** pot

a **sleepy** passenger a **sunny** day

* Some adjectives end in **–ive** : an **active** child an **attractive** hat a **creative** toy
* Some adjectives end in **–ly** : a **costly** diamond ring an **elderly** woman

**lively** kittens a **lonely** boy a **lovely** girl

a **weekly** magazine a **friendly** dog

* Some adjectives with the endings **–able**: a **comfortable** chair a **loveable** koala

**-al :** a **musical** instrument a **national** costume

**-en :** a **wooden** table a **woolen** sweater

**-ible** : a **horrible** smella **terrible** mess

**-ish**: a foolish act a **childish** behavior

**-ous** : a **dangerous** place a **disastrous** storm

***Let’s practice*** : Add the correct endings to turn these words into adjectives.

**wind fool gold charm friend**

**peace storm mud nation forget**

**dust spot play**

**Comparison of adjectives :**

* **Equal Comparisons**

To show an equal comparison, use the form: **as + [adjective]+ a.**

**e.g.** Julia is **as** *tall* **as** the bookshelf.

The water is **as** cold **as** ice.

***Let’s practice*** *:* ***Fill in the spaces with the appropriate comparative adjective****.*

**1.** The light shines as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the sun. **2.** The runner moves as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the wind.

**3.** The apple is as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a fire truck. **4.** The giraffe is as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the tree.

**5.** That clock is as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as my grandfather. **6.** His voice was as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as thunder.

**7.** The truck was as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a house. **8.** Your book bag is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a rock.

* When you **compare two** people or things, use the **comparative form** of the adjective.

→ **Short adjectives** ( 1 syllable or 2 syllables ending in « y »/ « er » ) form their comparative by adding **–er** + **than**

**e.g.** Jack is **taller than** John. A sports car is **faster than** a motorbike

**cheap, cheaper clear, clearer loud, louder new ,newer old , older**

**rich, richer short, shorter slow, slower clever, cleverer late, later**

**happy, happier easy, easier pretty, prettier silly, sillier**

**→ Long adjectives (** 2 syllables not ending in « y » or 3/more syllables**)** form their comparative by adding **more + than**

**e.g.** Kevin is **more active than** his brother. My chair is **more comfortable than** yours.

**charming, more charming delicious, more delicious dangerous, more dangerous**

**+ interested – frightening- expensive – obscure – doughtful – cheerful - modern**

* Use **the superlative form** of an adjective to compare **three or more** nouns.

A superlative adjective expresses the extreme or highest degree of a quality.

→ **Short adjs** form their superlative : **the +** adj**+** **-est**. **e.g.** Peter is **the tallest** boy in his class.

**long longer longest dark darker darkest thick thicker thickest**

**clean cleaner cleanest easy easier easiest narrow narrower narrowest**

**heavy heavier heaviest noisy noisier noisiest happy happier happiest**

**simple simpler simplest**

* adjectives having only one syllable and end with a consonant, and have a single vowel before the consonant. We double the last letter before adding **–er** to form the comparative, and **-est** to form the superlative :

**big bigger biggest dim dimmer dimmest mad madder maddest**

**sad sadder saddest + hot - fat – wet**

→**Long adjs** form their superlative : **the most +** adj. **e.g.** This is **the most pleasant** place I have ever seen.

**the most beautiful - the most attractive - the most comfortable- the most charming**

**the most powerful – the most valuable- the most intelligent - the most interesting**

**→** The comparative and superlative forms of some adjectives are completely **different words** (**irregular comparisons**) .

**Little less least good better best bad worse worst few less least**

**many/much more most**  **far farther/further farthest/furthest**

***Let’s practice :******Fill in the gaps with the appropriate comparative adjective****.*

1. Her motorcycle is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_(dangerous) than my car.

**2**. Rice is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sticky) than salad.

**3**. The grey jacket is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(colorful) than the pink one.

**4**. Yuki was at school \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (early) than I was.

**5**. I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (tired) now than I was this morning.

**6**. This exercise is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (tricky) than the last one.

**Order of adjectives**

* In English, it is common to use more than one adjective to describe a noun. These adjectives must be used in the proper order

**e.g**. Here is a **beautiful**, **red**, cloth flag.

Why does beautiful come before red? Why does red come before cloth?

* Understanding the proper order of adjectives takes practice. Use the following table to practice using the proper order of adjectives in the following sentences.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| number | opinion | size | age | shape | color | origin | material | Purpose  (gerund to form compound nouns) | **noun** |
|  |  | small |  | round |  | German |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | red |  |  | sleeping |  |
|  | generous |  | old |  |  |  |  |  | man |
| four |  |  |  |  |  |  | metal |  |  |

***Let’s practice :*** Choose the correct order of adjectives in the following sentences.

**1.**The woman is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dress. **2.** He is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man.

1. yellow long b. long yellow a. tall thin b. thin tall

**3**. The company makes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ products. **4**. James recently departed on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trip.

a. excellent farming b. farming excellent a. camping long b. long camping

**5**. I love eating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ strawberries. **6**. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ woman did well on the test.

a. red big b. big red a. intelligent young b. young intelligent

**7**. I am drinking from a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cup. **8**. My \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ teacher talks for hours!

a. small English tea a. philosophy old boring

b. tea small English b. old philosophy boring

c. English small tea c. boring philosophy old

d. boring old philosophy