

1. What are adjectives?

Adjectives are words that describe or modify other words, making your writing and speaking much more specific, and a whole lot more interesting. Words like small, blue, and sharp are descriptive, and they are all examples of adjectives. Because adjectives are used to identify or quantify individual people and unique things, they are usually positioned before the **noun** or **pronoun** that they modify. Some sentences contain multiple adjectives.

Examples:

A)

- a. Mark and Jane are carrying a chair.
- b. Mark and Jane are carrying a heavy chair
≈ The adjective “heavy” is describing the noun “Chair”.

B) The form of the adjective is the same for singular nouns and plural nouns

- a. Jane is holding a red apple.
- b. There are some red apples on the plate.

2. Kinds of adjectives:

A. The main kinds are:

- a. Demonstrative: this / that / these / those.
- b. Distributives: each / every / either / neither.
- c. Quantitative: some / any / no / little / few / many / much / one / twenty.
- d. Interrogative: which / what / whose.
- e. Possessive: my / your / his / her / its / our / their / your.
- f. Of quality: clever / dry / fat / golden / good / heavy / square.

B. Participles used as adjectives:

Both present participles (**Ing**) and past participles (**Ed**) can be used as adjectives. Care must be taken not to confuse them. Present participle adjectives, amusing, boring, tiring etc., are active and mean ‘having the effect’. Post participle adjectives, amused, horrified, tired etc., are passive and mean ‘affected in this way’.

Examples:

- ✚ The play was boring. (The audience was bored.)

✚ The scene was horrifying. (The spectators were horrified.)

C. Agreement:

Adjectives in English have the same form for singular and plural, masculine and feminine nouns:

The only exceptions

Examples:

✚ A good boy – good boys

✚ A good girl – good girls

The only exceptions are the demonstrative adjectives this and that, which change to these and those before plural nouns:

Examples:

✚ This cat – these cats

✚ That man – those men

D. Many adjectives / participles can be followed by prepositions:

Examples:

✚ Good at

✚ Aware of

✚ Tired of

(We will see these elements in the future.)

3. The position of adjectives (attributive and predicative)

A. Adjectives in groups (a) – (e) above come before their nouns

This book - which boy - my dog

Adjectives in this position are called attributive adjectives.

B. Adjectives of quality, however, can come either before their nouns:

A rich man a happy girl

Or after a verb such as (a) be, become, seem:

Tom become rich Ann seems happy

Or (b) appears, feel, get/grow (=become), keep, look (=appear), make, smell, sound, taste, turn:

Tom felt cold he got/grew impatient.

He made her happy the idea sounds interesting

Adjectives in this position are called link verbs or copulas.

C. Some adjectives can be used only attributively or only predicatively and some change their meaning when moved from one position to the other.

Bad/good, big/small, heavy/light and old, used in expressions as bad sailor, good swimmer, big eater, small farmer, heavy drinker, light sleeper, old boy/friend/soldier etc., cannot be used predicatively without changing the meaning: a small farmer is a man who has a small farm, but the farmer is small means that he is a small man physically.

D. Use of and:

With attributive adjectives and is used chiefly when there are two or more adjectives of color. It is then placed before the last of these:

Examples:

✚ A green and brown carpet.

✚ A red, white and blue flag.

With predicative adjectives and is placed between the last two:

✚ The day was cold, wet and windy.

4. Order of adjectives of quality:

- A. Several variations are possible but a fairly usual order is: adjectives of
- Size (except little.)
 - General description (excluding adjectives of personality, emotions etc.)
 - Age.
 - Shape.
 - Color.
 - Material.
 - Origin.
 - Purpose

Order of Adjectives									
Determiner	Opinion	Size	Shape	Age	Color	Origin	Material	Purpose	Noun
A		small			red				suitcase
The				new	blue		silk		T-shirt
An	ugly						wooden		chair
This			round	new				kitchen	table
A	comfortable			new			velvet		dress
These	lovely			old			ceramic		mugs
That	beautiful					German		sports	car
Those	amazing		heart-shaped		red				balloons
A	wonderful			old		French			clock

B. Little, old and young are often used, not to give information, but as part of an adjectives-noun combination. They are then placed next to their nouns:

Ex:

- ✚ Your nephew is a nice little boy.
- ✚ That young man drives too fast.

Little + old + noun are possible:

Ex:

- ✚ A little old lady.

But little + young is not.

When used to give information, old and young occupy position (c) above:

- ✚ A young colored man.
- ✚ An old Welsh harp.

Adjectives of personality/emotion can precede or follow young/old:

Ex:

- ✚ A young ambitious man

Or

- ✚ An ambitious young man.



Strong Adjectives List

Apperance	Condition	Feeling	Shape	Size	Sound	Time
✓ Adorable	✓ Alive	✓ Angry	✓ Broad	✓ Big	✓ Deafening	✓ Ancient
✓ Adventurous	✓ Bad	✓ Arrogant	✓ Chubby	✓ Colossal	✓ Faint	✓ Brief
✓ Alert	✓ Better	✓ Awful	✓ Crooked	✓ Fat	✓ Harsh	✓ Early
✓ Attractive	✓ Breakable	✓ Black	✓ Curved	✓ Gigantic	✓ High-pitched	✓ Fast
✓ Bloody	✓ Careful	✓ Bored	✓ Deep	✓ Great	✓ Hissing	✓ Late
✓ Bright	✓ Clever	✓ Confused	✓ Flat	✓ Immense	✓ Hushed	✓ Long
✓ Cloudy	✓ Crazy	✓ Cruel	✓ High	✓ Large	✓ Loud	✓ Modern
✓ Drab	✓ Dead	✓ Dizzy	✓ Hollow	✓ Little	✓ Melodic	✓ Old
✓ Dull	✓ Easy	✓ Evil	✓ Low	✓ Mammoth	✓ Mute	✓ Old-fashioned
✓ Fancy	✓ Expensive	✓ Grumpy	✓ Narrow	✓ Massive	✓ Noisy	✓ Quick
✓ Gorgeous	✓ Fragile	✓ Lazy	✓ Round	✓ Miniature	✓ Quiet	✓ Rapid
✓ Handsome	✓ Frail	✓ Naughty	✓ Shallow	✓ Petite	✓ Raspy	✓ Short
✓ Plain	✓ Helpful	✓ Nutty	✓ Skinny	✓ Puny	✓ Resonant	✓ Slow
✓ Shiny	✓ Gifted	✓ Terrible	✓ Square	✓ Scrawny	✓ Shrill	✓ Swift
✓ Spotless	✓ Modern	✓ Tired	✓ Steep	✓ Short	✓ Soft	✓ Young
✓ Stromy	✓ Open	✓ Upset	✓ Straight	✓ Small	✓ Thundering	
✓ Ugly	✓ Real	✓ Wicked	✓ Wide	✓ Teeny	✓ Voiceless	
✓ Wide-eyed	✓ Super	✓ Worried		✓ Tiny	✓ Whispering	



150 Common Adjectives List

- | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. abrupt | 26. creepy | 51. enchanting | 101. irritable | 126. sweet |
| 2. acidic | 27. crooked | 52. energetic | 102. juicy | 127. tart |
| 3. adorable | 28. cruel | 53. fresh | 103. jumpy | 128. tasty |
| 4. amiable | 29. cumbersome | 54. friendly | 104. kind | 129. teeny |
| 5. amused | 30. curved | 55. frightened | 105. lethal | 130. tender |
| 6. appalling | 31. cynical | 56. frothy | 106. little | 131. tense |
| 7. appetizing | 32. dangerous | 57. funny | 107. lively | 132. terrible |
| 8. average | 33. dashing | 58. fuzzy | 108. livid | 133. testy |
| 9. batty | 34. decayed | 59. gaudy | 109. lonely | 134. thankful |
| 10. blushing | 35. deceitful | 60. gentle | 110. lovely | 135. thick |
| 11. bored | 36. deep | 61. ghastly | 111. Lucky | 136. tight |
| 12. brave | 37. defeated | 62. giddy | 112. ludicrous | 137. timely |
| 13. bright | 38. defiant | 63. Gigantic | 113. macho | 138. tricky |
| 14. broad | 39. delicious | 64. helpful | 114. narrow | 139. trite |
| 15. bulky | 40. disturbed | 65. helpless | 115. nasty | 140. uneven |
| 16. burly | 41. dizzy | 66. high | 116. naughty | 141. upset |
| 17. charming | 42. drab | 67. hollow | 117. quaint | 142. uptight |
| 18. cheeky | 43. drained | 68. homely | 118. reassured | 143. vast |
| 19. cheerful | 44. dull | 69. horrific | 119. relieved | 144. vexed |
| 20. chubby | 45. eager | 70. huge | 120. repulsive | 145. vivid |
| 21. clean | 46. ecstatic | 71. hungry | 121. Responsive | 146. wacky |
| 22. clear | 47. elated | 72. hurt | 122. ripe | 147. weary |
| 23. cloudy | 48. elegant | 73. icy | 123. robust | 148. zany |
| 24. clueless | 49. emaciated | 74. ideal | 124. rotten | 149. zealous |
| 25. clumsy | 50. embarrassed | 75. irritable | 125. rotund | 150. zippy |



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