

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

WHAT ARE ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS?



ADJECTIVES

Adjectives describe, limit or add more meaning to nouns. So they describe or modify nouns. They add quality, shape, number, size, color or condition to nouns
e.g. a beautiful girl, an interesting book, four houses, a blue pen.

Adjectives answer questions such as:

Which One? What Kind? How Many? How Much?

That **house**

Large plot

Ninety books

Less rain

This **pot**

Dark girl

Many pencils

Much water

Those **plates**

Heavy bag

Few tables

Little oil

These **shoes**

Several houses

More food

Fifth position

Enough money

Last person

Formation of adjectives:

(addition of suffixes) Some adjectives end in *ful, ic, able, al*, e.g. hopeful, skillful, helpful, graceful, successful, dogmatic, problematic, fantastic, comic, comfortable, miserable, despicable, usable, brutal, tribal, economical, political.

Some nouns act as adjectives e.g.,

1. Where is the **class** chart I gave you?
2. He has gone to the **vegetable** garden.
3. The **geography** teacher has come.

In some sentences, the present participle and past tense of verbs act as adjectives

e.g.

1. She is part of the **winning** team.
2. We were living in the **destroyed** house.



Types/classes of adjectives

Proper adjectives: They are formed from proper nouns and are capitalized: Ghanaian film, Senegalese plays, Chinese recipe, British product, Danish cookies, Mexican food.

Attributive adjectives: They usually come in front the noun they modify e.g.

-The **beautiful** Joan is in my class.

Predicate adjectives: These are adjectives with other linking verbs e.g. -Jack is **lazy**. -Your hair is **bushy**. -These benches are **dusty**.

Order of adjectives in a sentence:

Some adjectives give facts while others express opinions. Examples of fact adjectives are; **new, large, round, modern, hot** and examples of opinion adjectives are; **nice, beautiful, delicious**. Opinion adjectives often go before fact adjectives:

1. An **interesting young** woman.
2. **Delicious hot vegetable** soup.
3. A **beautiful large round wooden** box.
4. A **huge one-year-old blue British plastic** bag.

When two or more fact adjectives are used together (as in the last example) follow this order

(1) how big, (2) how old, (3) what color,
(4) where from, (5) what is it made of

Even if there are just three adjectives

place them in this order. **A small red plastic bag / She has big blue eyes / A big old German car.**



Comparison of Adjectives

Adjectives can be used to compare. We have three forms of adjectives:

positive, comparative and superlative.

- **Positive** refers to the adjectives themselves.
- **Comparative** compares two things and
- **superlative** compares more than two things.

It is formed by adding **er** to the positive and **est** in the case of superlative especially in monosyllabic adjectives. With other regular adjectives which have two or more syllables, we put **more** in front of the positive to form the comparative and **most** in front of the positive to form the superlative.



| Positive | Comparative | Superlative |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| bright | brighter | brightest |
| noisy | noisier | noisiest |
| tall | taller | tallest |
| fat | fatter | fattest |
| fast | faster | fastest |
| popular | more popular | most popular |
| confident | more confident | most confident |
| beautiful | more beautiful | most beautiful |
| handsome | more handsome | most handsome |
| attractive | more attractive | most attractive |



ADVERBS

Adverbs like adjectives act like modifiers. An adverb can modify or add the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb:

With a verb: He spoke angrily.

With an adjective: It is unusually heavy.

With another adverb: She walks rather slowly.



Adverbs give us relevant information on;
how, when, where, how often, and to what
extent

- The students learnt **very quickly**.
(How did the students learn?)
- He did not come **yesterday**.
(When did he not come?)
- She took them **in**. (Where did she take them?)



Adverbs can be separated into five main classes according to their use or following what question they answer.

Place: (**where:** everywhere, here, upstairs, there)

E.g. He is playing **upstairs**.

Time: **when** (already, soon, seldom) E.g. We went home soon the film had finished.



Manner: (how: badly, easily, slowly, well)

E.g. He played **well** as if his life depended on the results.

Degree: (to what extent: almost, much, only, quite, very, rather, thoroughly)

E.g. He ran **very** quickly

Frequency: (how often: repeatedly, always, frequently, usually)

E.g. He **often** visits us.



Adverbs could also be classified as follows:

Number: (Once, twice)

E.g. He ran **twice** round the circle.

Questioning: (where, when, how)

E.g. **Where** is my book?.

Affirmation and negation: (yes, certainly and no, not)

E.g. She can **certainly** pass her Spanish language test.

He has **not** taken the money.

Comparison of adverbs: In comparing adverbs that end in *ly*, use “*more*” before the positive form and in the superlative, use “*most*” before the positive form.

Adverbs that do not end in *–ly* usually add *er* to form the comparative and *–est* to form the superlative.

| Positive | Comparative | superlative |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| slowly | slower; more slowly | slowest; most slowly |
| Quietly | more quietly | most quietly |
| Early | Earlier | earliest |
| Late | Later | latest |
| Deep | Deeper | deepest |
| Loud | Louder | loudest |
| Hard | Harder | hardest |



Irregular adverbs

| | | |
|-------|---------|----------|
| well | better | best |
| badly | worse | worst |
| much | worse | most |
| ill | worse | worst |
| late | later | latest |
| forth | further | furthest |
| far | farther | farthest |