

G using adjectives as nouns, adjective order

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1 READING & SPEAKING

a Think of an older person you know who seems much younger than they actually are. Circle any of the adjectives below that you would use to describe them.

active brave energetic funny glamorous impulsive
independent lively open-minded sociable

b Describe the person to a partner, and say what they do that makes them seem younger than their age.

c Look at the photo of Dilys and Sian. Approximately how old do you think they are?

The joy of the age-gap friendship

Modern life makes it hard for the old and the young to meet, and even harder to become best friends. What's the secret?

Dilys on Sian

I met Sian at an event where we were both speakers, and we just clicked. I could see she was just a great person, and cleverer than most. She was a glamorous, lively woman, who talked about being an entrepreneur and her love for her father.

She started inviting me to different places. I went to the races with her – not the sort of thing I normally do. She brought fun back into my life when I was working hard to run a charity. The new experiences we share help to keep me alive. When I was ill last Christmas, she really rescued me. She came in like a hurricane, with decorations, firewood, champagne. I was feeling sad and afraid, and she told me that wasn't allowed.

'She brought fun back into my life.'

Sian's full of energy and warmth. I feel I understand her because she represents my younger self. Mine wasn't a typical path; I always wanted to be a bit different. I was a dancer and taught the art of movement. I got married within six weeks, but divorced when my only son was seven. I've got the life I wanted, but it isn't always easy. I try to offer that perspective to Sian.



▲ Dilys and Sian

Sian on Dilys

I met Dilys in Cardiff, where we both live, at an event called Superwoman. We were both invited to speak and were at the same table. Dilys did a lot of charity work with disabled people, as well as being the world's oldest female solo skydiver. I was there to talk about my media marketing company. We hit it off; I thought she was amazing and the way I want to be as I grow older.

We love to sit with a takeaway and listen to Mozart. We like films and the theatre. She has a huge amount of energy and can dance for longer than me. She even persuaded me to do a skydive, despite my fear of

heights. When we're in a cab, taxi drivers ask how we met, but we never think of our age gap. She advises me on my love life, work, and how to be a better person.

'She's the way I want to be as I grow older.'

I often walk into Dilys's house when I'm stressed and within seconds I'm more relaxed. She calms me down when I'm angry, and teaches me to see things from other people's point of view. Now, she's the first person I ring when anything good or bad happens. My family say how much good she does me.

Glossary

the races a series of horse races that happen at one place on a particular day

Adapted from The Guardian

present perfect simple and continuous

present perfect simple: *have / has + past participle*

- 1 Have you ever **broken** a bone? I've never **seen** him before. ▶ 2.12
- 2 I've just **phoned** for an ambulance, but it **hasn't arrived** yet. I've already **told** you three times.
- 3 It's the best book I've ever **read**.
- 4 My computer's **crashed**! Look, it's **started** snowing.
- 5 I've **known** Miriam since I was a child. My sister **has been** ill for ten days now.
- 6 How many Agatha Christie novels **have** you **read**? They've **seen** each other twice this week.

- We use the present perfect simple:
 - 1 to talk about past experiences when you don't say when something happened, often with *ever* or *never*.
 - 2 with *just*, *yet*, and *already*.
 - 3 with superlatives and *the first*, *second*, *last time*, etc.
 - 4 for finished actions (when no time is specified) which have present results.
 - 5 with non-action verbs (= verbs not usually used in the continuous form, e.g. *be*, *need*, *know*, *like*, etc.) to say that something started in the past and is still true now.
- This use is common with time expressions like *How long...?*, *for* or *since*, *all day / evening*, etc.
- Don't use the present simple in this situation. **NOT** ~~*I know Miriam since I was a child.*~~
- 6 when we say or ask *how much / many* we have done or *how often* we have done something up to now.

present perfect continuous: *have / has + been + verb + -ing*

- 1 How long **have** you **been waiting** to see the doctor? He's **been messaging** his girlfriend all evening. ▶ 2.13
- 2 I **haven't been sleeping** well recently. It's **been raining** all day.
- 3 I've **been shopping** all morning. I'm exhausted. My shoes are filthy. I've **been working** in the garden.

a Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) if both are possible.

- Have you ever tried / been trying caviar?
- 1 She's *worked* / *been working* here since July.
 - 2 Your mother has *phoned* / *been phoning* three times this morning!
 - 3 The kids are exhausted because they've *run* / *been running* around all day.
 - 4 Tim and Lucy haven't *seen* / *been seeing* our new house yet.
 - 5 I've never *met* / *been meeting* her boyfriend. Have you?
 - 6 It's *snowed* / *been snowing* all morning.
 - 7 Bill has just *gone* / *been going* to work. He won't be back till this evening.
 - 8 My sister has *lived* / *been living* alone since her divorce.
 - 9 I've *read* / *been reading* all morning. I've now *read* / *been reading* 100 pages.

- We use the present perfect continuous:
 - 1 with action verbs (e.g. *run*, *listen*, *study*, *cook*) to say that an action started in the past and is still happening now (unfinished actions).
 - This use is common with time expressions like *How long...?*, *for* or *since*, *all day / evening*, etc.
 - Don't use the present continuous in this situation. **NOT** ~~*I'm living here for the last three years.*~~
- 2 for repeated actions, especially with a time expression, e.g. *all day*, *recently*.
- 3 for continuous actions which have just finished (but which have present results).

present perfect simple or continuous?

- 1 I've **been feeling terrible** for days. He's **liked** classical music since he was a teenager. ▶ 2.14
 - 2 She's **been having** piano lessons since she was a child. They've **had** that car for at least ten years.
 - 3 We've **lived** in this town since 1980. We've **been living** in a rented flat for the last two months.
 - 4 I've **painting** the kitchen. I've **been painting** the kitchen.
- 1 To talk about an unfinished action, we normally use the present perfect continuous with action verbs (e.g. *run*, *listen*, *study*, *cook*) and the present perfect simple with non-action verbs (e.g. *be*, *need*, *know*, *like*, etc.).
 - 2 Some verbs can be action or non-action, depending on their meaning, e.g. *have piano lessons* = action, *have a car* = non-action.
 - 3 With the verbs *live* or *work*, you can often use the present perfect simple or continuous. However, we normally use the present perfect continuous for more temporary actions.
 - 4 The present perfect simple emphasizes the completion of an action (= the kitchen has been painted). The present perfect continuous emphasizes the duration of an action (= the painting of the kitchen may not be finished yet).

b Complete the sentence with the present perfect simple or continuous of the verb in brackets.

- I've bought a new car. Do you like it? (buy)
- 1 We _____ Jack and Ann for years. (know)
 - 2 You look really hot. _____ at the gym? (you / work out)
 - 3 Emily _____ her homework yet, so I'm afraid she can't go out. (not do)
 - 4 They don't live in London – they _____. (move)
 - 5 I hope they're getting on OK. They _____ a lot recently. (argue)
 - 6 We _____ for hours. Is this the right way? (walk)
 - 7 Why is my laptop switched on? _____ it? (you / use)
 - 8 Oh no! I _____ my finger on this knife. (cut)

using adjectives as nouns, adjective order

adjectives as nouns

- In most African countries, **the young** still look up to **the old**.
The poor are getting poorer, and **the rich** are getting richer.
The government needs to create more jobs for **the unemployed**.
- The English** are famous for drinking tea.
The Chinese invented paper.
The Dutch make wonderful cheeses.

2.15



- You can use *the* + some adjectives to talk about groups of people, e.g.
 - specific groups in society, such as *the young*, *the old* (or *the elderly*), *the sick* (= people who are ill), *the blind*, *the deaf*, *the homeless*, *the dead*.
 - some nationalities that end in *-ch*, *-sh*, *-ese*, and *-ss*, such as *the French*, *the Spanish*, *the British*, *the Japanese*, *the Irish*, *the Swiss*, etc. (most other nationality words are nouns and are used in the plural, e.g. *the Brazilians*, *the Poles*, *the Turks*, *the Hungarians*, *the Argentinians*, etc.).
- You can also use adjective + *people* to talk about a group of people, e.g. *poor people*, *homeless people*, *old people*, *French people*.
- To talk about one person, use, e.g. *a Japanese woman*, *a rich man*, etc. **NOT** *a Japanese*, *a rich*.

adjective order

- We've got a **lovely old** cottage just outside Bath. 2.16
 She has **long fair** hair.
 I bought a **beautiful Italian leather** belt.

- You can put more than one adjective before a noun (often two and occasionally three). These adjectives go in a particular order, e.g. **NOT** *an old lovely cottage*.
- Opinion adjectives, e.g. *beautiful*, *nice*, *lovely*, always go before descriptive adjectives, e.g. *big*, *old*, *round*.
- If there is more than one descriptive adjective, they go in this order:

OPINION	SIZE	AGE	SHAPE	COLOUR	PATTERN	ORIGIN / PLACE	MATERIAL	NOUN
expensive	little	brand new	long	purple	spotted	French	silk	scarf
beautiful						Italian		car

a Rewrite the underlined phrase using *the* + an adjective.

People from Spain enjoy eating out. *The Spanish*

- People from the Netherlands tend to be good at languages.
- Florence Nightingale looked after the people who weren't well during the Crimean War.
- The system of reading for people who can't see is called Braille.
- People from France think that their cuisine is the best in the world.
- Ambulances arrived to take the people who had been injured to hospital.
- People from Switzerland are usually very punctual.
- The worst season for people without a home is winter.
- There is a discount for people without a job.
- The monument was erected to honour the people who died in the Second World War.
- There are special TV programmes for people who can't hear, which use sign language.

b Write the adjectives in brackets in the correct place. Change *a* to *an* where necessary.

a big car park (empty) *a big empty car park*

- a man (young / attractive)
- shoes (old / dirty)
- a velvet jacket (black / beautiful)
- a girl (teenage / tall / American)
- a beach (sandy / long)
- a country house (magnificent / 17th-century)
- a leather bag (Italian / stylish)
- eyes (huge / dark)
- a dog (black / friendly / old)
- a T-shirt (striped / cotton)

← p.21