

Adjectives and Adjective Phrases

Gramatika 1 - 10

An **ADJECTIVE** is a word that describes the quality or state of a noun.

- *He lives in his **small blue** house with [a **blue little*** window] and [a **blue** corvette], and everything is **blue** for him...*



- *He is one of those highly **respectable middle-aged English** gentlemen of taste.*

Function of adjectives: **MODIFIERS** of nouns and denote its quality or quantity.

*.) *Wrong order of adjectives!*

ADJECTIVES

- form an **OPEN CLASS** of words
- do not change their form for number, gender, person, and case
- are '**describing**' words (**attributive**)
- qualify or modify a noun **NOUN PHRASE** or a **CLAUSE**

... answer the questions:

- **What kind** (of X) is it?
- **How many** are there?
- **Which** one is it?
- ...

Adjectives can be used to describe:

1. Feelings or Qualities:

- *I am **hungry**.*
- *He finally made an **honest** woman out of her.*

2. Nationalities or Origins:

- *Her best friend is a **French** musician.*
- *This is **Swiss** chocolate.*

3. Characteristics:

- *This is a **sad** novel.*

4. Age:

- *The **elderly** gentleman visited us last evening.*

5. Size and Measurement:

- *This is a **short** film on literature.*

6. Colours:

- *She bought a **pink** umbrella yesterday.*

7. Shapes:

- *This is a **round** ball.*

8. Judgment or Value:

- *This is a **tricky** problem to solve.*
- *This is an **expensive** pair of earrings.*

ADJECTIVE PHRASES

- consist of adjectives together with elements which complement or modify them in different ways
- a fairly simple structure
- a typical AdjP consists of a **head** and a (degree) **modifier**:

The poor living conditions make planning your future [almost impossible].

ATTRIBUTIVE FUNCTION

- Adj / AdjP placed with a noun; usually before the noun
- the AdjP serves as a **modifier**
 - *[The **arrogant** minister] lost his seat.*
 - *The scarcity of supplies has become [an [**increasingly difficult**]AdjP problem]NP.*

Note :

- In **Old English**, **adjectives** are sometimes placed **after** the nouns. These are called **POSTPOSITIVE** adjectives.
 - *We have been following certain customs and practices since [time **immemorial**]*
 - *[inspector **general**]*

PREDICATIVE FUNCTION

- as **predicatives** (complements) in clause structure, following verbs like*: *be, seem, look, become* etc.; usually after the verb
 - *They were [tired].*
 - *She looks [sick].*
 - *Maintaining a reasonable level has become [increasingly difficult].*

* **LINKING VERBS** or **COPULAR VERBS** are verbs that are either followed by a noun or an adjective.

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES / DESCRIPTORS

- help us visualize, describe, define, or explain information about people, places, things, situations, or actions
- When we talk about adjectives, we have a usual order that we follow for **descriptive adjectives**
- The order is: e.g. *a funny (1) tall (2) young (4) man*

<p>① OPINION</p> <p>smart, funny, caring, angry</p>	<p>② SIZE, LENGTH, HEIGHT</p> <p>small, big, tall, deep</p>	<p>③ PHYSICAL QUALITY</p> <p>rough, smooth, sharp, blunt</p>	<p>④ AGE</p> <p>young, old, new, dated</p>
<p>⑤ SHAPE</p> <p>round, square, cylindrical, oblong</p>	<p>⑥ COLOR</p> <p>blue, green, red, yellow</p>	<p>⑦ ORIGIN</p> <p>Spanish, French, German, Australian</p>	<p>⑧ MATERIAL</p> <p>plastic, silk, woolen, wooden</p>

Put the adjectives in the correct order:

The document was in a _____ folder.

(brown / large / leather)

The cave was _____ and _____.

(dark / long)

Sandra bought me a _____ purse.

(Indian / round / small)

This is an _____ painting.

(canvas / enormous / French / green)

CLASSIFICATION ADJECTIVES / CLASSIFIERS

- ... are used when we want to classify a noun.
 - *We will work on projects in [the **educational** sector].*
- A sector can be classified as:
 - *'educational', 'industrial', 'corporate', etc.*
- In this sentence, the adjective 'educational' is used to classify the noun 'sector' and hence, it is called a **classification adjective** or a **classifier**.

OPINION ADJECTIVES

- ... are used before a noun when we want to give an opinion or judgment about something.
 - *He is a **caring** brother.*
- Here, the adjective 'caring' expresses the speaker's opinion about the noun 'brother' and hence, it is called an **opinion adjective**.

OPINION, DESCRIPTION, AND CLASSIFICATION

Description before **classification**

- Adjectives that are used to describe the noun are placed before words that are used to classify the noun.
 - *This is our **newest institutional** establishment.*

Opinion before **description**

- When we want to give an opinion or judgment about something, we usually add it before the description in a sentence.
 - *[The **lovely old** lady] waved at us.*

ADJECTIVAL SUFFIXES

-able, -ible	capable of being:	<i>edible, presentable, abominable, credible</i>
-al	pertaining to:	<i>regional, grammatical, emotional, coastal</i>
-esque	reminiscent of:	<i>picturesque, statuesque, burlesque</i>
-ful	notable for:	<i>fanciful, resentful, woeful, doubtful</i>
-ic, -ical	pertaining to:	<i>musical, mythic, domestic</i>
-ious, -ous	characterized by:	<i>nutritious, portentous, studious</i>
-ish	having the quality of:	<i>fiendish, childish, snobbish</i>
-ive	having the nature of:	<i>creative, punitive, divisive, decisive</i>
-less	without:	<i>endless, ageless, lawless, effortless</i>
-y	characterized by:	<i>sleazy, hasty, greasy, nerdy, smelly</i>

ADJECTIVES USED AS NOUNS

- some adj can be used as if they were nouns
 - *Don't be such **a silly!*** (= a silly fool)
 - *There's something the matter with **the electric**s in my car.*
(= the electrical system)
- **the + adjective** is used to refer to:
 - **group** as a whole:
 - *the blind, the deaf, the rich/the poor, the young/the old, the unemployed*
 - **general or abstract** notions:
 - *the supernatural, the unexpected, the unknown, the unheard of*
- some **nationality** adjectives, particularly those ending in -ch, -sh and -ese:
 - *the British, the French, the Japanese*

- Adjectives are normally used in this way with **the** or a **determiner**:

- *Jackson is collecting money for **the poor**.*
- *They are building a new shelter for **the homeless**.*
- *They don't care about **the unemployed**.*

NOUNS USED AS ADJECTIVES

- names of materials, substances, etc. (*leather, nylon, plastic*) resemble adjectives, so do some nouns indicating use or purpose, e.g. *kitchen chairs*
 - *It's a **cotton** dress* (= it's cotton/made of cotton)
 - *It's a **summer** dress.* (= a dress to be worn in summer)
- nouns that classify / qualify another nouns:
 - *Could you please shut the **car** door after you?*
 - *We found three dimes in her **coat** pocket.*

But note *wooden* and *woollen*:

 - *It's a **wooden** spoon. / It's made of **wood**.*
 - *It's a **woollen** dress. / It's made of **wool**.*

CONCORDANCING

- Confirming your hypothesis
- Discovering patterns of actual language use
- Identification of subject-specific and most frequent vocabulary
- ...

Link: **AntConc Concordancer**

<https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/>

Hit	KWIC
1	phs (a) or (b) above , other effective measures , including the use of p
2	le and maintain adequate self-rescue respiratory devices for workers in
3	als , can pursue appropriate administrative , civil and criminal remedies
4	alyse and make available reliable , unbiased and detailed information ar
5	is purpose , the international standard industrial classification of all eco
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7	is purpose , the international standard industrial classification of all eco
8	his purpose the international standard industrial classification of all eco
9	ropriate : (a) a national tripartite advisory body , or bodies , addressing
10	provide , where necessary , adequate protective clothing and protective
11	l (e) assist , as necessary , other public and private bodies in social and
12	s involved , the necessary personal protective devices , the relevant me
13	ction service or other competent public authorities . _SENT 3._CD Adequ
14	re possible , by other complementary national programmes and plans \

*the prescribed yearly average **number** of contributions*

*the international standard industrial **classification** of all economic activities*

*the skilled manual male **employee***

*suitable personal protective **equipment***

*the prescribed yearly average **number** of contributions*