

Topic: Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe a noun. Adjectives can modify as well as describe other words.

There are two main types of adjectives. These are called determiners and descriptive adjectives.

Determiners

Determiners are groups of grammar words that act as adjectives. Determiners are used before a noun to introduce it or to provide more information on the noun,

The following examples are determiners:

1. **My**, our, his, your, her, its, their
2. This, that, these, those
3. What, which, whose.
4. Quantity words such as some, a few, four, etc.
5. The three articles ‘a’, ‘an’, and ‘the’ are determiners.

Determiners can be placed in different groups.

1. Possessive Adjectives

As the name indicates, possessive adjectives are used to indicate possession. The most commonly used possessive adjectives are my, our, his, your, her, its, and their. Possessive adjectives also function as possessive pronouns.

Example: This is **my** bike. The word “**my**” acts as an adjective by giving information about the noun “car”.

2. Demonstrative Adjectives

A demonstrative adjective is an adjective used to specifically describe the position of something or someone in space or time. The most commonly used demonstrative adjectives are this, that, these and those. For example,

- (i). **This** day has been great! (**This** indicates a day close to the present moment, i.e. the current day.)
- (ii). I remember **that** day like it was yesterday. (**That** indicates a day that occurred long before the current moment, possibly the distant past.)
- (iii). **These** next couple of Saturdays should be fun. (“**These**” indicates that the Saturdays will occur in the near future.)
- (iv). **Those** hard years took a toll on him. (“**Those**” indicates that the years happened in the relatively distant past.)

3. Interrogative Adjectives

There are three interrogative adjectives: which, what, and whose. Like all other types of adjectives, interrogative adjectives modify nouns. As you probably know, all three of these words are used to ask questions.

- (i). **Which** option sounds best to you?
- (ii). **What** time should we go?
- (iii). **Whose** socks are those?

4. Quantity Adjectives

Quantity words such as some, a few, four, etc. are determiners. For example,

- (i) I will give you **some** money.
- (ii) I don't have **much** patience these days.
- (iii) I usually read the first **few** pages of a book before I buy it.
- (iv) He ate **23** hotdogs during the contest, and was sick afterwards.

5. Articles

There are only three articles, and all of them are adjectives. The three articles are “a”, “an”, and “the”. For example,

- (i) Please give me **a** banana.
- (ii) Let's go on **an** adventure.
- (iii) I'd like **the** one with **the** green stem.

Descriptive Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives are the ones which we often identify as describing words. For example, words such as black, old, ugly, and polite are descriptive adjectives.

Examples of descriptive adjectives in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

1. John is a **tall** boy.
2. She is **old**.

A descriptive adjective will usually fit into one of the following categories:

Category	Example
Appearance	attractive, burly, clean, dusty
Colour	azure, blue, cyan, dark
Condition	absent, broken, careful, dead
Personality	annoying, brave, complex, dizzy
Quantity	bountiful, countless, deficient
Sense	aromatic, bitter, cold, deafening

Size and Shape	angular, broad, circular, deep
Time	ancient, brief, concurrent, daily

Ordering Adjectives

Order of Adjectives will be:

- Determiner
- Quantity
- Quality / Opinion
- Size
- Shape
- Age
- Condition
- Color
- Origin
- Purpose (the usage)

Example: Read and find the correct sentence in each question.

1. (a) **Five large** countries.
(b) **Large five** countries.
2. (a) A **beautiful young** horse.
(b) A **young beautiful** horse.
3. (a) It is **full three** sessions.
(b) It is **three full** sessions.
4. (a) It is made of a **blue plastic** body.
(b) It is made of a **plastic blue** body
5. (a) He bought a **new beautiful red** car.
(b) He bought a **beautiful new red** car.
6. (a) It is **delicious Chinese** foods.
(b) It is **Chinese delicious** foods

Answers: 1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (a)

When do we use commas between adjectives?

We use commas between adjective when we use adjectives from the same category one after another.

For example,

1. We stayed at an **amazing, beautiful** hotel.

In this sentence, “**amazing**” and “**beautiful**” are of the same category, opinion.

2. We ate a **delicious, amazing** Italian meal.

3. He is a **tall, big** boy.

In this sentence, “**tall**” and “**big**” are of the same category, size.