

# Grammar - Adjectives

An **adjective** is a describing word. It tells you more about a noun. An adjective usually appears before the noun it describes. Sometimes, though, the adjective appears after the noun, later in the sentence.

a **smart** dog  
an **old** building  
a **low** fence

John's handwriting is very **neat**.  
Sue's drawing is **beautiful**.  
Peter is **quiet** today.

**Exercise #1:** Fill in the blanks below - can you come up with **at least three words** for each blank?

1. The ice cream is very \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It's very \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer.
3. They live in a \_\_\_\_\_ house.

Adjectives have different **endings**. Some adjectives end in -ful or -less.

**homeless** people                      a **careless** driver                      a **beautiful** dress  
**playful** puppies                      a **harmless** insect

An adjective that ends in **-less** is the opposite of the same adjective that ends in **-ful**.

For example:

careful - careless                      useful - useless  
colorful - colorless                      harmful - harmless

The **-ful** ending means having a lot of something.

painful = having a lot of pain                      hopeful = having a lot of hope

The **-less** ending means without.

seedless = without seeds                      sleeveless = without sleeves

Some adjectives end in **-y**.

a **dirty** street                      a **sleepy** passenger                      a **muddy** path  
a **noisy** room                      a **sunny** day

Some adjectives end in **-ive**.

an **active** child

an **attractive** hat

an **expensive** necklace

a **creative** toy

Some adjectives end in **-ing**.

a **caring** nurse

an **interesting** book

**loving** parents

Some adjectives end in **-ly**. (please note that some adverbs also end in -ly)

a **weekly** magazine

an **elderly** woman

a **friendly** police officer

Here are some adjectives with the endings -able, -al, -en, -ible, -ish, and -ous.

a **broken** chair

**childish** behavior

a **wooden** table

a **famous** pop singer

a **comfortable** chair

a **terrible** mess

a **poisonous** snake

a **horrible** smell

a **musical** instrument

**Exercise #2:** Add the correct endings (**either -y, -ful, -less, -al**) to turn these words into adjectives.

1. peace \_\_\_\_\_

6. dirty \_\_\_\_\_

2. storm \_\_\_\_\_

7. music \_\_\_\_\_

3. mud \_\_\_\_\_

8. nation \_\_\_\_\_

4. forget \_\_\_\_\_

9. dust \_\_\_\_\_

5. spot \_\_\_\_\_

10. play \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise #3:** Add the correct endings (**either -en, -y, -ing, -ish, -ous, -ly**) to turn these words into adjectives.

11. wind \_\_\_\_\_

16. danger \_\_\_\_\_

12. gold \_\_\_\_\_

17. fool \_\_\_\_\_

13. friend \_\_\_\_\_

18. charm \_\_\_\_\_

14. forget \_\_\_\_\_

19. love \_\_\_\_\_

15. rot \_\_\_\_\_

20. interest \_\_\_\_\_

There are different kinds of adjectives. Some describe the **qualities** of nouns.

a **cold** drink

a **loud** crash

an **old** house

a **fierce** dog

an **ugly** monster

a **sad** story

Some adjectives tell you which place or country a person or thing comes from, or belongs to.

They are called **adjectives of origin**.

an **Indian** temple

the **French** flag

a **Mexican** hat

a **Scottish** kilt

Some adjectives tell you the **color** of things.

Carrots are **orange**.

Jimmy is wearing **brown** shoes.

Roses are **red**.

The sky is **gray**.

Some adjectives tell you the **size** of the nouns they describe.

a **huge** balloon

a **tall** bookcase

a **short** man

a **high** mountain

Please note that the word tall describes people and narrow, upright objects. The word high describes bigger or wider objects that reach a great height.

Numbers are adjectives too. They tell you how many people, animals or things there are.

Sometimes they are called adjectives of quantity.

**two** princes

**fifteen** frogs

**five** witches

**twenty** butterflies

Other adjectives tell you something about quantity without giving you the exact number. These adjectives that tell you about **quantity** are also called **quantifying determiners**.

a **lot of** books

a **few** cups

not **many** people

**some** soldiers

a **little** rice

too **much** salt

#### Exercise #4

Read each sentence. Underline the adjectives in each sentence. Do you know what kinds of adjectives they are? In the blanks to the right write:

- C if the underlined word tells you about color
- S for size
- QI about quality
- O about origin
- Qn about the number or quantity of things.

1. Dad has two pairs of shoes. \_\_\_\_\_
2. One is brown and the other is black. \_\_\_\_\_
3. This is a simple puzzle. \_\_\_\_\_
4. There is some food in the refrigerator.
5. My house is just a few miles from the school. \_\_\_\_\_
6. They are driving a small car.
7. Sue likes yellow and red balloons. \_\_\_\_\_
8. What color is the American flag? \_\_\_\_\_
9. There is a large crowd outside the church. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The teacher was very kind to the student. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Comparison of Adjectives

When you compare two people or things, use the comparative form of the adjective. Lots of comparative adjectives end in **-er**.

small **smaller**

fast **faster**

brighter **brighter**

loud **louder**

Can you name three more?

Can you include each in a sentence?

Use the superlative form of an adjective to compare three or more nouns. Lots of superlatives end in -est.

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
dark	darker	darkest
easy	easier	easiest
long	longer	longest
noisy	noisier	noisiest

\*\*Please note that you often add **the** before the superlative form. For example:

Mount Everest is **the** highest mountain in the world.

Peter is **the** tallest boy in his class.

With adjectives that end in -e, add **-r to form the comparative**, and **-st to form the superlative**. For example:

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
close	closer	closest
safe	safer	safest

Some adjectives only have one syllable, end with a consonant, and have a single vowel before the consonant. With these adjectives, double the last letter before adding -er to form the **comparative**, and -est to form the **superlative**. For example:

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
big	bigger	biggest
sad	sadder	saddest

Some adjectives have two syllables and end in -y. With these adjectives change the y to i. Then add -er to form the **comparative**, and -est to form the **superlative**.

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
busy	busier	busiest
happy	happier	happiest
lazy		

With some adjectives, you must use **more** to make the comparative form, and **most** to make the superlative form. These usually have two or more syllables or sounds.

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
active	more active	most active
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
delicious	more delicious	most delicious
comfortable		
famous		
powerful		

The comparative & superlative forms of some adjectives are completely different words. With these, you don't add -er or more to form the comparative, or -est or most to form the superlative.

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
good	better	best
little	less	least
bad	worse	worst
few	less	least
many	more	most
much	more	most

Choose one row from the above table and write three sentences using each adjective.

### **Exercise #5**

Fill in the blanks with the correct comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives:

	<b>comparative</b>	<b>superlative</b>
hard		
foolish		
difficult		
busy		
soft		
generous		
funny		
rich		
sad		
mad		