

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are words which modify nouns and pronouns.

CATEGORIES OF ADJECTIVES

Perception - beautiful, ugly, easy, difficult, interesting

Size - small, tall, short, big

Age - young, old, new, ancient, classic

Shape - round, oval, square, rectangular

Color - blue, green, yellow, pink, purple, red

Nationality - American, Japanese, Canadian

Material - metallic, plastic, wooden, glass, paper

Purpose/Qualification -- foldout, intake, fishing (e.g. fishing boat)

Examples:

The beautiful, Japanese dress was wonderful.

The green, rectangular box contained potpourri.

The blue sea is beautiful.

The long folding table is very useful for parties.

STACKING ADJECTIVES

Adjectives can be stacked together to help to make more specific the sensory and physical properties of the noun.

Example:

green, seven-day-old, moldy tortilla

the two-hundred year-old house

this stupid-ridiculous-crappy exam

Adjectives (when stacked) are specifically ordered by the following elements:

1. Quantity or number
2. Quality or opinion
3. Size
4. Age
5. Shape
6. Color
7. Nationality or place of origin or material (Proper Adjective)
8. Purpose or qualifier

Example:

ten new large ten-year-old rectangular blue Parisian edible candies

ABSOLUTES, COMPARATIVE, AND SUPERLATIVES

Adjectives may be used to show comparison and superlatives (things to their greatest extent).

Examples:

Absolute	Comparative	Superlative
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Large	Larger	Largest
Small	Smaller	Smallest

The Absolute is the form of the adjective which has no comparison.

Example:

Jimmy is a strong guy.

Comparatives are used to compare two items.

Example:

Jimmy is stronger than I am.

Superlatives are used when you are comparing more than two items (i.e., three or more); moreover, they are the forms of adjectives which often represent the “greatest” extent/potential of a modifier.

Example:

Jimmy is the strongest person that I know.

SYLLABLES AND COMPARATIVES

Generally, superlatives follow some patterns of language.

When an adjective has one syllable, the letters –ER are added.

Example:

Large => Larger

When an adjective has two syllables, the letters –ER are added or (depending on usage) the word MORE is added.

Example:

Easy => Easier -or- Stressful => More Stressful

When an adjective has more than three syllables, the word MORE is added in front of the adjective.

Example:

Difficult => More Difficult

SYLLABLES AND SUPERLATIVES

Generally, superlatives follow some patterns of language.

When an adjective has one syllable, the letters –EST are added.

Example:

Large => Largest

When an adjective has two syllables, the letters –EST are added or (depending on usage) the word MOST is added.

Example:

Easy => Easiest -or- Stressful => Most Stressful

When an adjective has more than three syllables, the word MOST is added in front of the adjective/superlative.

Example:

Beautiful => Most Beautiful

HYPHENATED ADJECTIVES (OR COMPOUND ADJECTIVES)

Adjectives may appear as hyphenated. Typically, these hyphenated adjectives (or compound adjectives) use the hyphen to join them together.

Example:

left-handed hitter

two-year-old toddler

six-page document

Oftentimes, hyphens are used when the reader is meant to put both words together.

Example: (CONTRASTED)

Please prepare a six-page report for your professor.

Please prepare a six page report for your professor.

ADJECTIVE PHRASES

DEFINITION

An adjective phrase is a group of words connected to the adjective.

Typically, the adjective is placed in front of the word it modifies:

Example:

She is very beautiful.

Very = adverb

Beautiful = adjective

Other times, the words are placed after the adjective to modify it much in the same way.

Example:

The dog is dry enough to put in the car.

Dry = adjective

Enough = adverb