

I'm not a bot

































An **adjective** is a word that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun, often providing information about the qualities or characteristics of someone or something.Adjectives can describe these qualities independently or in comparison to something else, and they often appear directly before the noun or pronoun they modify. Examples include words like enormous, doglike, silly, yellow, fun, and fast.Adjectives have three forms: absolute (describing one thing, like messy), comparative (comparing two things, like messier), and superlative (indicating the highest degree, like messiest). Comparatives often use -er or more, while superlatives use -est or most.Coordinate adjectives equally modify the same noun and are separated by commas or conjunctions (they, and) while non-coordinate adjectives have a unit meaning and are not separated by a comma or conjunction (tattered woolen sweater).Adjectives can also describe the quantity or amount of many, few, million, etc.They describe qualities that cannot typically be modified or intensified.Examples to help you use them effectively. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do Table of contentsAdjective definitionHow to use adjectivesAdjectives modify nounsDegrees of adjectivesCoordinate adjectivesAdjectives vs. adverbsNouns as adjectives and adjectives as nounsAdjective usage Adjective FAQsAdjective definitionAn adjective is a word that describes or modifies a noun, providing additional information about its qualities, characteristics, or attributes. For example, in the phrase the tall building, the adjective tall gives specific details about the buildings height.Adjectives can convey various aspects, such as size, color, shape, and emotion, enhancing the meaning of the nouns they accompany.How to use adjectivesUse adjectives to tell the reader what kind of something you're talking about or how much or how many of something you're talking about. Please use three white flowers in the arrangement.Three and white are modifying flowers.Often, when adjectives are used together, you should separate them with a comma or conjunction. See Coordinate adjectives below for more details. Im looking for a small, good-tempered dog to keep as a pet. My new dog is small and good-tempered. Adjectives modify nounsAs you may already know, adjectives are words that modify (describe) nouns. Adjectives do not modify verbs, adverbs, or other adjectives. Margot wore a beautiful hat to the pie-eating contest. Furry dogs may overheat in the summertime. My cake should have sixteen candles. The scariest villain of all time is Darth Vader.The adjectives are easy to spot in the sentences above because they come immediately before the nouns they modify.However, adjectives can modify nouns without appearing before them in a sentence. Acting as a subjective complement with the help of a linking verb, a predicate adjective modifies the subject of a sentence.A linking verb is a verb like to be, to feel, to seem, or to taste that, rather than describing an action, helps to describe a state of being or a sensory experience. It smells gross in the locker room. Driving is faster than walking. Degrees of adjectivesAdjectives come in three forms: absolute, comparative, and superlative.Absolute adjectivesAbsolute adjectives express a quality in an extreme or absolute sense, leaving no room for degrees of comparison. They describe qualities that cannot typically be modified or intensified.Examples of absolute adjectivesComparative adjectivesComparative adjectives, unsurprisingly, make a comparison between two or more things. For most one-syllable adjectives, the comparative is formed by adding the suffix -er (or just -r if the adjective ends with an e).For two-syllable adjectives, some use -er to form the comparative, while others use the word more. In general, two-syllable adjectives ending in -er, -le, -ow, -ure, or -y can be made comparative by adding -er (in the case of -y words, replace y with -ier). For adjectives of three or more syllables, add the word more.Examples of comparative adjectivesSuperlative adjectivesSuperlative adjectives indicate that something has the highest degree of the quality in question. One-syllable adjectives become superlatives by adding the suffix -est (or just -st for adjectives that already end in e).As with the comparative, some two-syllable adjectives use -est to form the superlative, while others use the word most. Generally, two-syllable adjectives ending in y replace y with -iest.Adjectives of three or more syllables add the word most. An article with a superlative adjective will almost always be the definite article (the) rather than the indefinite articles a or an. Using a superlative inherently indicates that you are talking about a specific item or items.Examples of superlative adjectivesThe most garrulous squirrelsWant to make sure you're using adjectives correctly in your writing? Grammarly can check your spelling and save you from grammar and punctuation mistakes. It even proofreads your text, so your work is extra polished wherever you write. Coordinate adjectivesCoordinate adjectives should be separated by a comma or the word and. Adjectives are said to be coordinate if they modify the same noun in a sentence to the same degree. This is going to be a long, cold winter. Isabels dedicated and tireless efforts made all the difference.Sometimes, when two adjectives appear next to each other and modify the same noun, the one closer to the noun is so closely related to the noun that they form a single semantic unit together. That unit is what is modified by the first adjective. In this case, the adjectives are not coordinate and should not be separated by a comma. My cat, Gooler, loves sleeping on this tattered woolen sweater. No one could open the old silver locker.In some cases, its pretty hard to tell whether two adjectives are coordinate or not. But there are a couple of ways you can test them. Try inserting the word and between the adjectives to see if the phrase still seems natural.In the first sentence above, this tattered and woolen sweater doesnt sound right because you arent talking about a sweater that is both tattered and woolen in the same way. Its a woolen sweater inherently, and it has become tattered. Woolen sweater forms a unit of meaning that is modified by tattered.Another way to test for coordinate adjectives is to try switching the order of the adjectives and seeing if the phrase still works. In the second sentence, you wouldnt say, No one could open the silver old locker. You cant reverse the order of the adjectives because silver locker is a unit modified by old.Order of adjectivesWhen combined in a sentence, adjectives follow a specific order.In English, the rules regarding adjective order are more specific than in other languages; that is why saying adjectives in a particular order sounds right, and deviating from that order makes a statement sound wrong, even if its otherwise grammatically perfect.Compound adjectivesCompound adjectives combine two or more words to act as a single descriptor for a noun, often linked with hyphens to ensure clarity. The hyphen helps show that the words work together to modify the noun, preventing potential confusion. A well-prepared meal (The meal is thoroughly prepared.) A fast-moving train (The train moves quickly.)When the compound adjective follows the noun, the hyphen is typically dropped: The meal was well prepared.Adverbs modifying adjectives are not typically hyphenated. Instead, they are written separately.Common compound adjective forms include the following:Using hyphens in compound adjectives when appropriate ensures precision and readability, especially when the meaning might otherwise be unclear.Adjectives vs. adverbsMany of us learned in school that adjectives modify nouns and adverbs modify verbs. But as weve seen, adjectives dont need to be right next to nouns to modify them; they can do so after a linking verb in a sentence as predicate adjectives.This leads to a common type of mistake: using an adverb when what you need is a predicate adjective. Heres an example you probably heard before: I feel badly about what happened.Because feel is a verb, it may seem to call for an adverb rather than an adjective. But feel isnt just any verb; its a linking verb. An adverb would describe how you perform the action of feelingan adjective describes what you feel.I feel badly would mean you are bad at feeling things, it might make sense to say, I feel badly. But if youre trying to say that you are experiencing a negative emotion, I feel bad is the phrase you want.Its easier to see this distinction with a different linking verb. Consider the difference between these two sentences: Max smells bad means that Max has a weak sense of smell. Max smells bad means that Max stinks.Nouns as adjectives and adjectives as nounsOne more thing you should know about adjectives is that, sometimes, a word normally used as a noun can function as an adjective, depending on its placement. Never try to pet someone's guide dog without asking permission first.Guide is a noun, but in this sentence, it is used as an adjective to modify dog.It works the other way, too: Sometimes, words that are normally adjectives shift into use as nouns. Many times, this happens with adjectives used to denote a group of people, with the addition of the: The French are known for valuing their leisure time. Robin Hood stole from the rich to give to the poor.The word people has been omitted in the above examples, and the adjectives French, rich, and poor function as nouns. This kind of shift also happens with other types of adjective-noun pairs, especially when they are commonly used together: Our English class took our final this morning. Camille tends to focus on intangibles like communication style and a sense of camaraderie when deciding whether to accept a job offer.In these sentences, the nouns exam and qualities have been omitted.Adjective usage advicelets one thing to know how to use an adjective; its another to know when using one as a good idea. Good writing is plain and concise.Sometimes, you need an adjective to convey precisely what you mean. Its hard to describe a red sports car without the adjective red. But often, choosing the right noun eliminates the need to include an adjective. Is it a big house or a mansion? A large crowd or a throng? A mixed-breed dog or a mutt? A dark night or just night?Always aim to make every word count in your writing. If you need an adjective, use it. But if its not adding value, skip it.Adjective FAQsWhat is an adjective?An adjective is a word that describes the traits, qualities, or number of a noun.What are examples of adjectives?Descriptive words like beautiful, smooth, and heavy are all adjectives, as are numbers (twelve eggs).What is the difference between adjectives and adverbs?Adjectives modify nouns, while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. For example, in the phrase very funny movie, funny is an adjective describing the noun movie, and very is an adverb describing the adjective funny.Can adjectives modify adverbs?Adjectives can modify only nouns. Only adverbs can modify other adverbs. 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Beautiful is one example of an adjective whose degree can only be modified in this way; you could say that one painting is more beautiful than another, but you would not want it to be beautifuler. Comparative and Superlative Adjectives The question of whether you should modify an adjective with -er or -est or if you should use more or most is a tricky one. A very general rule (which has many exceptions) is that -er or -est may be used for adjectives of a single syllable (like noun or fat), more or most are used for those with three syllables or more (like beautiful), and there are no clear rules for adjectives with two syllables. (Read more about modifying adjectives) Other Rules of Adjectives In addition to describing qualities in nouns and pronouns, adjectives can modify them by restricting their meanings. Take numbers, for example: fifteen cupcakes, zero quarks. Similarly, although they are often used as pronouns, this, that, these, and those can also be used as adjectives: This article is very informative. Other parts of speech:What is an adverb?What is a preposition?What is a verb?Other articles you may be interested in:Adjectives that look like nounsNouns that look like adjectivesHow do you modify an adjective? What is an adjective? How does an adjective work? An adjective is a word that's used to describe places, people, or things. Words like young, happy, and even red, are some examples of adjectives. Learn what are adjectives through this article. Adjective Adjectives are used to describe the qualities or the states of being, of nouns. They are defined as, a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it. Part of SpeechDefinitionAdjectivea word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify (modifying the same noun) or describe it. Adjectives are used to modify nouns and sometimes pronouns as well. They enable you to add meaning to the noun, and also to describe it. The adjective meaningessentially states that adjectives are used to modify nouns. Adjectives help you to add meaning to the sentence, and when used correctly, can help you reduce your word count as well. Adjectives are essential in the English language as they help you to describe the subject of the sentence. Learn about adjective meaning through this guide. Adjective Usually, adjectives will be placed before the noun that its describing. This way, it modifies the noun. They can also be added attributive adjectives. When an adjective is placed before a noun, it ends up modifying that noun. Without the adjective, the meaning of the noun would change. Take for example the term old man. Here, the word old is an adjective thats used to modify the word man. Without this adjective, the man can be of any age. But when you say old man, you're describing what the overall age of the man is. You can also use adjectives to modify pronouns as well. Take, for example, the sentence: She is a happy one. Here, the adjective happy is used to modify the pronoun one. 1) He is a young man. The adjective young lets the listener know that the man in question is of a young age. 2) Bring me a mixed-breed dog or a mutt? A dark night or just night?Always aim to make every word count in your writing. If you need an adjective, use it. But if its not adding value, skip it.Adjective FAQsWhat is an adjective?An adjective is a word that describes the traits, qualities, or number of a noun.What are examples of adjectives?Descriptive words like beautiful, smooth, and heavy are all adjectives, as are numbers (twelve eggs).What is the difference between adjectives and adverbs?Adjectives modify nouns, while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. 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Similarly, although they are often used as pronouns, this, that, these, and those can also be used as adjectives: This article is very informative. Other parts of speech:What is an adverb?What is a preposition?What is a verb?Other articles you may be interested in:Adjectives that look like nounsNouns that look like adjectivesHow do you modify an adjective? What is an adjective? How does an adjective work? An adjective is a word that's used to describe places, people, or things. Words like young, happy, and even red, are some examples of adjectives. Learn what are adjectives through this article. Adjective Adjectives are used to describe the qualities or the states of being, of nouns. They are defined as, a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it. Part of SpeechDefinitionAdjectivea word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify (modifying the same noun) or describe it. 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Descriptive adjectives Descriptive adjectives, as the name suggests, are used to describe a noun or a pronoun. You'll usually find them in certain categories. Appearance: Clean, dirty, beautiful Color: Red, green, dark Condition: Carefree, absent, dead Personality: Brave, kind, simple Quantity: Countless, ample, bountiful Sense: Warm, cold, sweet Shape and Size: Circular, angular, rectangular Time: Daily, old, ancient Heres a sentence example for each kind of descriptive adjective. 1) Appearance: She was an attractive girl. 2) Color: He had blue eyes. 3) Condition: The chair is broken. 4) Personality: He was really brave. 5) Quantity: The harvest was bountiful. 6) Sense: The food was bitter. 7) Shape and Size: The swimming pool was deep. 8) Time: I go to school daily. The descriptive adjectives are marked in bold. Traditionally, words such as his, many, a, this, and more, are placed in the same classification as adjectives. More recently, these words are being classified using the term determiners. This is why when people usually think of adjectives, descriptive adjectives come to their minds. Now that you know what is an adjective, its time to learn about determiners. With determiners in the picture, there are now a total of nine parts of speech. Adjectives and determiners Possessive determiners include the words my, his, her, your, their, our, whose and its. Now lets look at an example sentence. The man opened the door for his wife. Here, the possessive determiner is his, and it shows whose wife the man opened the door for. Demonstrative determiners include the words these, that, those, and this. Now lets look at an example sentence to see how they work. That man has been silent for a long time. Here, the demonstrative determiner that is used to denote which man is being spoken of. Sometimes, nouns can also be used as adjectives. Take, for example, the term silk gloves. Here, the noun silk is used to describe what kind of a glove it is. In the term donut shop, both donut and shop are nouns. However, when put together, they modify each other. Youre able to tell what kind of a shop it is a donut shop. In order to use a noun as an adjective, that noun should be capable of modifying the noun its being placed next to. In the term electricity board, the noun electricity is helping to determine what kind of a board it is. Consider the term fall colors, as well. The noun fall describes what kind of colors can be seen. The two nouns work together to add meaning to the sentence. 1) There was a fruit fly on my glass. 2) Our team won the boat race. You can also use infinitives as adjectives. An infinitive verb, such as to run, to swim, and to walk, can all be used to modify nouns. Nouns can be modified using infinitive verbs. Infinitives can also end up heading the phrase itself. 1) He gave her the order to run. Here, the infinitive verb to run describes the noun order. 2) He told his friend to jump. In this case, the infinitive verb to jump describes what the noun friend was asked to do. In case you want to use more than two adjectives together, then theres a particular order that you need to follow. Knowing the meaning of adjectives is also important to understand the adjectives. Although its rare for people to use more than three adjectives in the same sentence, if you find yourself using more adjectives, follow the following order: the placement and type of adjective help determine the order that two or more adjectives can be placed. 1) Article and demonstrative or possessive determiners. Words like a, the, my, that, this, and other similar words come first. 2) Quantity. These could be any number, such as one, seven, thirty-three, and more. 3) Observation And Opinions: These include words like smart, pretty, witty, and more. 4) Size: Words like small and large, are placed next. 5) Physical Quality: This can include words like clean, cluttered, and dirty. 6) Shape: Words like circular, square, and short are used next. 7) Age: Words like old, young, and others come next. 8) Color: Any colors, like red, green, and blue, come next. 9) Religion Or Origin: The nationality of a person, like German, or the religion they follow, like Christianity, comes next. 10) Material: Words like wooden, metal, and others, fall into this category. 11) Type: Terms like all-purpose and L-shaped among others, should be placed next. 12) Purpose or Attributive Noun: These should be used last and includes words like service, cooking, and drinking. You should note that while this list is not universally agreed upon, its still commonly used. Age and shape are the two areas that people often disagree upon. 1) Have you seen my two brown wooden spoons? Here, the possessive determiner my comes first, followed by the quantity two, and then the color brown. Finally, the material wooden is the last adjective used. 2) Talk to the old French policeman. Here, the first adjective is old, as age comes before origin. French is used to describe the origin of the policeman. To better understand when you should place a comma between adjectives, youll need to know what coordinate and cumulative adjectives are. In the case of cumulative adjectives, you can build specificity with each adjective. This is why you should never insert commas between two cumulative adjectives. They should also follow the order of adjectives thats been listed above. 1) A dark brown wooden spoon. 2) A beautiful red butterfly. In both cases, the order of adjectives needs to be followed. You also want to adding commas between the adjectives. Coordinate adjectives When it comes to coordinate adjectives, they describe the noun independently. As a result, you can place them in any order you like. You should use commas to separate the adjectives, and you may use the word and as well. 1) A red, lumpy vase. 2) A lumpy, red vase. Changing the order of coordinate adjectives doesnt affect the sentences meaning. There are different types of adjectives that you should know about. They include: Adjectives describing what the overall age of the man is. You can also use adjectives to modify pronouns as well. Take, for example, the sentence: She is a happy one. Here, the adjective happy is used to modify the pronoun one. 1) He is a young man. The adjective young lets the listener know that the man in question is of a young age. 2) Bring me a mixed-breed dog or a mutt? A dark night or just night?Always aim to make every word count in your writing. If you need an adjective, use it. 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An adjective is a word that's used to describe places, people, or things. Words like young, happy, and even red, are some examples of adjectives. Learn what are adjectives through this article. Adjective Adjectives are used to describe the qualities or the states of being, of nouns. They are defined as, a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it. Part of SpeechDefinitionAdjectivea word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify (modifying the same noun) or describe it. Adjectives are used to modify nouns and sometimes pronouns as well. They enable you to add meaning to the noun, and also to describe it. The adjective meaningessentially states that adjectives are used to modify nouns. Adjectives help you to add meaning to the sentence, and when used correctly, can help you reduce your word count as well. Adjectives are essential in the English language as they help you to describe the subject of the sentence. Learn about adjective meaning through this guide. Adjective Usually, adjectives will be placed before the noun that its describing. This way, it modifies the noun. They can also be added attributive adjectives. When an adjective is placed before a noun, it ends up modifying that noun. Without the adjective, the meaning of the noun would change. Take for example the term old man. Here, the word old is an adjective thats used to modify the word man. Without this adjective, the man can be of any age. But when you say old man, you're describing what the overall age of the man is. You can also use adjectives to modify pronouns as well. Take, for example, the sentence: She is a happy one. Here, the adjective happy follows the linking verb seemed happy. Here, the adjective happy follows the linking verb seemed. 1) He looks like someone interesting. 2) She wasnt among those present. Descriptive adjectives Descriptive adjectives, as the name suggests, are used to describe a noun or a pronoun. You'll usually find them in certain categories. Appearance: Clean, dirty, beautiful Color: Red, green, dark Condition: Carefree, absent, dead Personality: Brave, kind, simple Quantity: Countless, ample, bountiful Sense: Warm, cold, sweet Shape and Size: Circular, angular, rectangular Time: Daily, old, ancient Heres a sentence example for each kind of descriptive adjective. 1) Appearance: She was an attractive girl. 2) Color: He had blue eyes. 3) Condition: The chair is broken. 4) Personality: He was really brave. 5) Quantity: The harvest was bountiful. 6) Sense: The food was bitter. 7) Shape and Size: The swimming pool was deep. 8) Time: I go to school daily. The descriptive adjectives are marked in bold. Traditionally, words such as his, many, a, this, and more, are placed in the same classification as adjectives. More recently, these words are being classified using the term determiners. This is why when people usually think of adjectives, descriptive adjectives come to their minds. Now that you know what is an adjective, its time to learn about determiners. With determiners in the picture, there are now a total of nine parts of speech. Adjectives and determiners Possessive determiners include the words my, his, her, your, their, our, whose and its. Now lets look at an example sentence. The man opened the door for his wife. Here, the possessive determiner is his, and it shows whose wife the man opened the door for. Demonstrative determiners include the words these, that, those, and this. Now lets look at an example sentence to see how they work. That man has been silent for a long time. Here, the demonstrative determiner that is used to denote which man is being spoken of. Sometimes, nouns can also be used as adjectives. Take, for example, the term silk gloves. Here, the noun silk is used to describe what kind of a glove it is. In the term donut shop, both donut and shop are nouns. However, when put together, they modify each other. Youre able to tell what kind of a shop it is a donut shop. In order to use a noun as an adjective, that noun should be capable of modifying the noun its being placed next to. In the term electricity board, the noun electricity is helping to determine what kind of a board it is. Consider the term fall colors, as well. The noun fall describes what kind of colors can be seen. The two nouns work together to add meaning to the sentence. 1) There was a fruit fly on my glass. 2) Our team won the boat race. You can also use infinitives as adjectives. An infinitive verb, such as to run, to swim, and to walk, can all be used to modify nouns. Nouns can be modified using infinitive verbs. Infinitives can also end up heading the phrase itself. 1) He gave her the order to run. 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These could be any number, such as one, seven, thirty-three, and more. 3) Observation And Opinions: These include words like smart, pretty, witty, and more. 4) Size: Words like small and large, are placed next. 5) Physical Quality: This can include words like clean, cluttered, and dirty. 6) Shape: Words like circular, square, and short are used next. 7) Age: Words like old, young, and others come next. 8) Color: Any colors, like red, green, and blue, come next. 9) Religion Or Origin: The nationality of a person, like German, or the religion they follow, like Christianity, comes next. 10) Material: Words like wooden, metal, and others, fall into this category. 11) Type: Terms like all-purpose and L-shaped among others, should be placed next. 12) Purpose or Attributive Noun: These should be used last and includes words like service, cooking, and drinking. You should note that while this list is not universally agreed upon, its still commonly used. 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