ADJECTIVES

Introduction

Generally, adjectives explain or describe nouns by giving little information regarding an object's shape, size, age, color, material or origin. The simple explanation of an adjective is that adjective is a word which explains or describes or clarifies a noun.

Few examples which have the adjectives are mentioned below:

- It is a big table. Here "big" is a word which defines the size of a table.
- It is a roundtable. In this sentence, "round" is a word which defines a shape of a table.
- It is an old table. Here "old" is a word that defines an age of a table.
- It is an English table. Here the word "English" defines origin table.
- It is a brown table. In this sentence, the word "brown" defines a color of the table.
- It is a wooden table. Here, "wooden" word describes the material of the table.
- It is a lovely table. In this sentence, the word "lovely" describes opinion about a table.
- It is a coffee table. Here "coffee" is a word which describes the purpose of a table.
- It is a broken table. In this sentence, the word "broken" tells about an observation table.

When we define or describe an object or item by its purpose then the defined word is not an adjective but it acts as one in that. Few examples of it are mentioned below:

- Baseball player
- Coffee table
- Pool hall
- Hunting cabin

What do adjectives look like?

The English adjectives often end with the following suffixes which are mentioned below:

- -an
- -ar
- -ent
- -ful
- -less
- -ous
- -some
- -ic
- -ical

www.studymafia.org

- -ine
- -ile
- -ive
- -able
- -ible
- -al

We have to careful in working with these adjectives because there are adverbs and nouns that end with –y, many nouns that end with -ary and much more like that.

Where do adjectives go in a sentence?

If you come upon a word that ends in -y, -ary or -ate (or the other suffix for that matter), and you wish to grasp if it's an adjective, simply check out wherever it's and what it's doing within the sentence. If it comes right away before a noun, and particularly if it comes between a writing (a, an, the), a possessive adjective (my, his, her, its, your, our, their), a demonstrative (this, that, these, those) or a quantity (some, most, all, a few) and a noun, then it's an adjective.

- The grass field was wet in the dew. Here, "grassy" comes between an article and noun. So, it is an adjective.

Below examples tell about adjectives that act as complements:

- He was smart, handsome and rich.
- He is tall.
- You were my best friend.

The correct order of multiple adjectives:

When you list or place many adjectives in a row then there is a specific order of it in which they have to place in writing or speaking. Normally, native English speakers tend to put them in order but if you an English learner then memorize the below order:

- Determiner: Determiner is nothing but articles, demonstrative, and possessive adjectives
- Opinion or observation
- Size
- Shape
- Age
- Color
- Origin
- Material
- Qualifier

www.studymafia.org

An example of it is mentioned below:

- My coffee table is beautiful, big, circular, antique, brown, English, and wooden.

Types of adjectives:

The below diagram explains about types of adjectives:

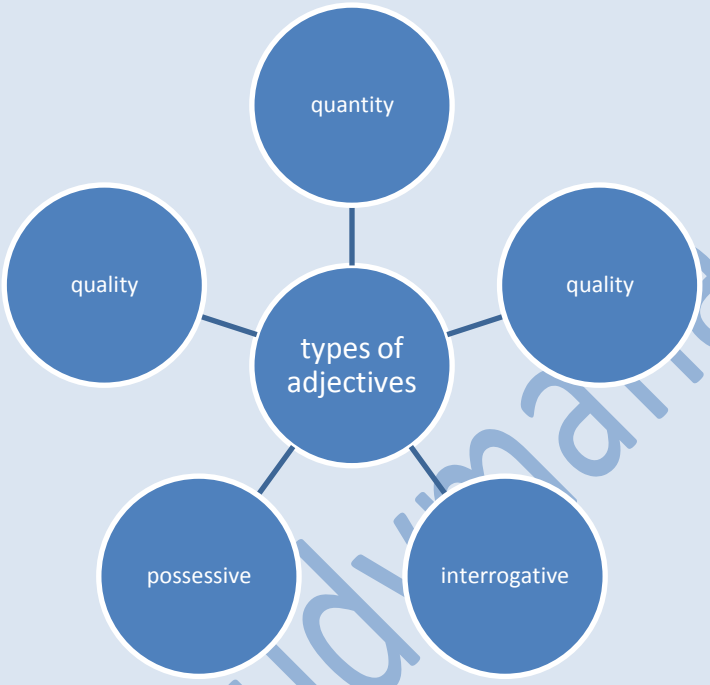

Fig1: types of adjectives

www.studymafia.org

Adjectives

An adjective modifies a noun; that is, it provides more detail about a noun. This can be anything from color to size to temperature to personality. Adjectives usually occur just before the nouns they modify. In the following examples, adjectives are in bold, while the nouns they modify are in italics (the **big** *bear*):

- The generator is used to convert **mechanical** *energy* into **electrical** *energy*.
- The **steel** *pipes* contain a **protective sacrificial** *anode* and are surrounded by **packing** *material*.

Adjectives can also follow a linking verb. In these instances, adjectives can modify pronouns as well. In the following examples, adjectives are still bold, while the linking verb is in italics this time (the sun *is* **yellow**):

- The schoolhouse *was* **red**.
- I *looked* **good** today.
- She *was* **funny**.

Numbers can also be adjectives in some cases. When you say "Seven is my lucky number," *seven* is a noun, but when you say "There are seven cats in this painting," *seven* is an adjective because it is modifying the noun *cats*.

www.studymafia.org

Comparable Adjectives

Some adjectives are **comparable**. For example, a person may be polite, but another person may be more polite, and a third person may be the most polite of the three. The word *more* here modifies the adjective *polite* to indicate a comparison is being made (a **comparative**), and *most* modifies the adjective to indicate an absolute comparison (a **superlative**).

There is another way to compare adjectives in English. Many adjectives can take the suffixes –*er* and –*est* (sometimes requiring additional letters before the suffix; see forms for *far* below) to indicate the comparative and superlative forms, respectively:

great, greater, greatest
deep, deeper, deepest
far, farther, farthest

Some adjectives are *irregular* in this sense:

good, better, best
bad, worse, worst
little, less, least

Another way to convey comparison is by incorporating the words *more* and *most*. There is no simple rule to decide which means is correct for any given adjective, however. The general tendency is for shorter adjectives to take the suffixes, while longer adjectives do not—but sometimes *sound* of the word is the deciding factor.

more beautiful not *beautifuller*
more pretentious not *pretentiouser*

www.studymafia.org

Non-Comparable Adjectives

Many adjectives do not naturally lend themselves to comparison. For example, some English speakers would argue that it does not make sense to say that one thing is "more ultimate" than another, or that something is "most ultimate," since the word *ultimate* is already an absolute. Such adjectives are called **non-comparable adjectives**. Other examples include *dead*, *true*, and *unique*.

Native speakers will frequently play with non-comparable adjectives. Although *pregnant* is logically non-comparable (someone is pregnant or she is not), you may hear a sentence like "She looks more and more pregnant each day." Likewise *extinct* and *equal* appear to be non-comparable, but one might say that a language about which nothing is known is "more extinct" than a well-documented language with surviving literature but no speakers, and George Orwell once wrote "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."

REFERENCES

1. www.google.com
2. www.wikipedia.org
3. www.studymafia.org

www.studymafia.org