

14 Descriptive Adjectives

A **descriptive adjective** describes a noun or a pronoun by telling its number, color, size, type, or other quality.

The large, enthusiastic audience began a rhythmic clapping to the music's beat.

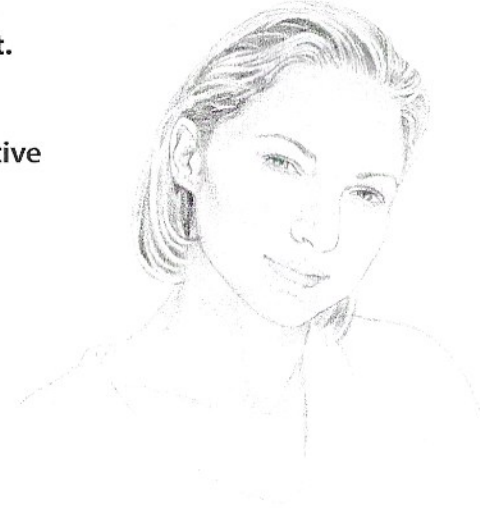
In this example, *large* and *enthusiastic* describe *audience*, and *rhythmic* describes *clapping*.

Some adjectives come from proper nouns. These are called **proper adjectives**. Remember that a proper noun names a specific person, place, or thing.

The singer Nelly Furtado is of Portuguese descent.

Underline each descriptive adjective. Circle each adjective that comes from a proper noun.

1. Gloria Estefan is a popular singer.
2. She sings Latin music.
3. As a child, Gloria had a difficult life.
4. Her family was of Cuban origin.
5. They had come to the United States because of political problems in Cuba.
6. As a young girl, Gloria became an important caregiver to her ill father.
7. Gloria, who spent much of her time at home, would listen to popular music and sing along with the strong beat of the music.
8. Gloria's mother encouraged her to sing with a local group.
9. Although Gloria was a shy performer at first, she became a confident entertainer.
10. Gloria's smooth voice made her a huge success with audiences.
11. Latino audiences appreciated the original sound of her group.
12. The group originally sang songs in the Spanish language only.
13. Her group then had a big hit with "Dr. Beat," a song in the English language.
14. Estefan now had the successful and glamorous life of a star.
15. Unfortunately, in 1990 Estefan was in a serious accident while riding in a bus.
16. She suffered a severe injury to her back that required major surgery.
17. Following her recovery, Estefan wanted to resume her musical career.
18. A courageous and industrious person, Gloria worked to reestablish herself.
19. Her efforts paid off, and she was able to rebuild her successful career.
20. Estefan performs in an interesting, lively, and creative way.



Adjectives

Gloria Estefan is an example of a person who is determined to reach her goals. Give an example of how you can show determination to reach a goal.

15 Position of Adjectives

An adjective usually goes before the word it describes. In other cases, however, an adjective may follow the word it describes. An adjective that follows a linking verb is a **subject complement**. An adjective that follows an object and describes it is an **object complement**.

Corn and tomatoes were Native American crops. (before the noun)

Tomatoes, rich and juicy, can be eaten raw. (after the noun)

Popcorn is very tasty. (subject complement)

At first Europeans considered the tomato exotic. (object complement)

A Underline each adjective. Identify its position by writing **BN** on the line if the adjective comes before the noun it describes, **AN** if it comes after the noun, **SC** if it is a subject complement, or **OC** if it is an object complement.

- [SC] 1. Popcorn isn't new.
- [BN] 2. At excavations in New Mexico, archaeologists have found ancient popcorn.
- [AN, AN] 3. The popcorn, still fluffy and white, had been in tombs for hundreds of years.
- [SC] 4. Native Americans were creative in their uses of popcorn.
- [BN] 5. They used popcorn in decorative headdresses and necklaces.
- [BN] 6. They even made an unusual soup from popcorn.
- [SC] 7. In the United States today, popcorn is popular.
- [AN, AN] 8. People love to eat popcorn, tasty and crunchy.
- [BN, BN] 9. In a year the average American snacks on 73 quarts of popcorn.
- [BN] 10. Popcorn is a seed with a tiny embryo in it.
- [BN] 11. Around the embryo is a starchy substance.
- [SC] 12. This becomes large when the seed is heated.
- [BN] 13. The heat creates the fluffy material of the popcorn.
- [AN, AN] 14. Popcorn, delicious and nutritious, can be a snack almost anytime.
- [OC] 15. An excess of salt and butter, however, can make it unhealthy for a person.



B Write the appropriate adjective(s) to complete each sentence. On the line identify the position of each. Use **BN**, **AN**, or **SC** as in Part A.

- poisonous decorative popular red, round rich and thick**
- [SC] 1. The tomato has become tremendously [popular] around the world.
 - [BN] 2. The [red, round] tomato is actually a fruit and not a vegetable.
 - [SC] 3. In the past, Europeans thought that the tomato was [poisonous].
 - [BN] 4. They used it only for [decorative] purposes.
 - [AN] 5. Eventually the Italians made pasta sauces, [rich and thick], with tomatoes.

16 Demonstrative, Interrogative, and Indefinite Adjectives

A **demonstrative adjective** points out a definite person, place, thing, or idea. The demonstrative adjectives are *this, that, these, and those*.

An **interrogative adjective** is used in a question. The interrogative adjectives are *what, which, and whose*. *Which* is usually used to ask about one or more of a specific set of items. *What* is used for asking about people or things but is not limited to a particular group or set. *Whose* refers to possession.

An **indefinite adjective** refers to any or all of a group. Indefinite adjectives include *all, another, any, both, each, either, few, many, more, most, much, neither, other, several, and some*.

Adjectives

A Identify the type of the italicized adjective in each sentence. Write **A** for demonstrative, **B** for interrogative, or **C** for indefinite.

- [B] 1. *Which* students have signed up to participate in the karaoke night?
- [A] 2. *This* event is going to take place in the cafeteria.
- [C] 3. *Every* participant has to choose the song he or she will sing.
- [C] 4. Participants can choose *any* song from a list.
- [A] 5. Students have to indicate their choices on *this* list.
- [C] 6. *Many* students are choosing songs by their favorite groups.
- [B] 7. *What* group is your favorite?
- [C] 8. *Some* students want to sing with partners.
- [C] 9. *Several* students have asked Michael to sing with them.
- [B] 10. *Which* song do you think I should sing?



B Complete each sentence with the type of adjective named. More than one answer may be correct. [Answers will vary.]

- interrogative 1. [Which, What] student do you think sang the best?
- indefinite 2. Elena and Martina sang wonderfully; [either, each] girl is worthy of the top prize.
- indefinite 3. In fact, [each, every] student received loud applause.
- indefinite 4. [Some, Several] student performers wore costumes for their song.
- demonstrative 5. [This, That] kind of event can be fun for everyone.

17 Demonstrative Adjectives

This and *these* refer to objects that are near. *That* and *those* refer to objects that are farther away.

This kind of backpack can hold all my books.

Those tents are good for camping in the woods.

A Circle the correct demonstrative pronoun in parentheses.

1. (this **these**) chairs
2. (this **these**) types of boots
3. (**that** those) camp stove
4. (**that** those) bag of apples
5. (this **these**) boxes of matches
6. (this **these**) compasses
7. (**that** those) sweater
8. (**that** those) pair of boots
9. (**that** those) bag of marshmallows
10. (**this** these) kind of sleeping bag

B Complete each sentence with a demonstrative adjective. Use the information at the left.

- near 1. **[This]** new type of tent isn't very bulky.
- far 2. Don't forget **[those]** tent stakes.
- near 3. **[These]** sleeping pads will be comfortable to sleep on.
- far 4. We might take **[that]** futon mattress instead.
- far 5. **[Those]** shirts will make good pillows for our heads.
- near 6. **[This]** recipe for campfire corn-on-the-cob sounds delicious.
- far 7. Pack **[that]** can of kidney beans for my easy chili.
- far 8. We need to take **[that]** can opener too.
- near 9. I'll take **[these]** bananas to grill for dessert.
- near 10. **[This]** type of camp stove burns propane gas.
- near 11. **[These]** boxes of plastic utensils will come in handy.
- far 12. You should take **[those]** warm socks.
- near 13. Don't forget **[these]** rain ponchos.
- near 14. Put **[these]** bottles of water in the cooler.
- far 15. Can you carry all **[that]** gear?



19 More Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

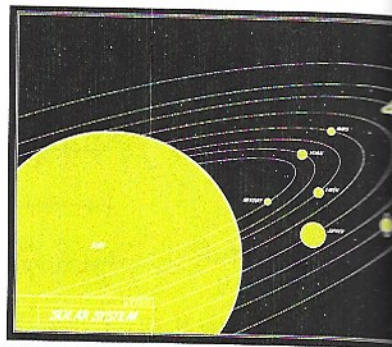
The **comparative degree** is used when two things are compared. It is often used with *than*.
 The **superlative degree** is used when more than two things are compared.

COMPARATIVE Earth is much smaller than Jupiter.

SUPERLATIVE Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system.

A Circle the correct form for the adjective used in each comparison.

- Of all the planets, Mercury is the one that is (closer closest) to the sun.
- Temperatures on Mercury are the (more extreme most extreme) in the solar system.
- Venus is the (brighter brightest) planet of all.
- Venus looks (brighter brightest) than any other object in the sky except the sun and the moon.
- Venus was considered the (most beautiful more beautiful) planet of all.
- The (more enormous most enormous) volcano in the solar system is Olympus Mons, which is on Mars and reaches a height of about 16 miles.
- Mars is much (smaller smallest) than Earth.
- Earth is (flatter flattest) at the poles and (wider widest) in the middle than a true sphere would be.
- The (more unusual most unusual) feature of Jupiter is its red spot, which is an intense storm of gases.
- Jupiter is much (larger largest) than Earth—about 1,300 Earths would fit inside it.



B For each sentence write the correct degree of comparison of the adjective given.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| cold | 1. Neptune is the <u>[coldest]</u> planet. |
| long | 2. It also takes the <u>[longest]</u> time to orbit the sun. |
| remarkable | 3. The <u>[most remarkable]</u> feature of Saturn is the rings that circle its equator. |
| short | 4. A year on Mercury is much <u>[shorter]</u> than a year on Earth. |
| faint | 5. The rings of Jupiter are <u>[fainter]</u> than those of Saturn. |
| close | 6. Venus comes <u>[closer]</u> to Earth than any other planet does. |
| hot | 7. Venus's clouds create a greenhouse effect that makes Venus the <u>[hottest]</u> planet of all. |
| massive | 8. Jupiter is <u>[more massive]</u> than the other planets. |
| important | 9. Jupiter's name comes from the <u>[most important]</u> Roman god. |
| interesting | 10. What is the <u>[most interesting]</u> fact you've learned about the planets? |

20 Few and Little with Concrete Nouns and Abstract Nouns

A **concrete noun** names things that can be seen, touched, or counted: *watch, table, tree*. An **abstract noun** names things that cannot be seen, touched, or counted: *time, skill, thought*. Use the adjectives *few, fewer, and fewest* to compare concrete nouns. Use the adjectives *little, less, and least* to compare abstract nouns.

- CONCRETE** A basketball team has fewer players than an ice hockey team has.
- ABSTRACT** A period in basketball takes less time than a period in ice hockey.

A Circle the correct word in parentheses.

- There were (fewer less) students from our school at the basketball tournament this year than there were last year.
- In fact, I think that our school had the (fewest least) fans of any school in the district.
- (Fewer Less) applause than usual greeted the teams as they took the court.
- Overall, there was (less fewer) enthusiasm for this tournament.
- Our team scored (fewer less) points than its opponent did in the first half.
- The other team made (fewer less) mistakes and deserved its lead.
- Our team seemed to play with (fewer less) energy in the second half than it did at the beginning of the game.
- There were (few little) cheers from the fans and the cheerleaders.
- There was no longer the (fewest least) hope that our team would win.
- Our best player scored the (fewest least) points of his career.

B Complete each sentence with *fewer* or *fewest*, or *less* or *least*.

- Basketball teams have [fewer] players than baseball teams have.
- A football quarter lasts [less] time than a hockey period.
- Of all the sports I know, polo has the [fewest] minutes in a period—only seven and a half minutes.
- Compared with residents of other countries in the Western Hemisphere, the people in the United States seem to have the [least] interest in professional soccer.
- Of all major sports, hockey attracts the [fewest] TV viewers for its championship games.
- A football field covers [less] area than a soccer field.
- Soccer requires [fewer] pieces of equipment than football does.
- [Fewer] points are scored in soccer than in many other sports.
- Professional baseball players earned much [less] money in the past than current players do.
- Some people say that of the major sports, golf requires the [least] pure athletic ability.



21 More Concrete and Abstract Nouns

A **concrete noun** names something that can be seen or touched. An **abstract noun** names a quality, a condition, or a state of mind. It names something that cannot be seen or touched.

CONCRETE Teachers work in schools.

ABSTRACT Teachers need energy and dedication.

Circle the abstract nouns. Underline the concrete nouns.

1. Maria Montessori (1870–1952) was a pioneer in the education of children.
2. Through her determination, Maria was the first woman in Italy to become a doctor.
3. The young doctor began to work with children and study their methods of learning.
4. Montessori worked in a poor area of Rome.
5. Her desire to help children was strong.
6. Maria even had workers cut down chairs and desks for the convenience of small children.
7. Her basic observation was that children have a great need to work toward goals.
8. Educators need to establish the right environment so young learners can experiment independently.
9. The philosophy of Montessori was to present children with challenges.
10. There are many schools around the world that follow the principles of Montessori today.
11. In the classrooms you will see beads, blocks, and maps—all on low shelves.
12. In Montessori schools, children work with materials that have specific purposes.
13. One such material is the pink tower, which is made of ten pink blocks.
14. For success with the tower, the child starts with the largest block first.
15. The tower helps children learn the concept of size.



Maria Montessori used her knowledge to help others. Give an example of how you can use your talents to help others.