

37 Descriptive Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns. **Descriptive adjectives** can tell about age, size, shape, color, origin, or other qualities.

The large painting hung near the south entrance of the museum.

Italian artists painted on wet plaster to create frescoes.

A Circle each descriptive adjective. Underline the noun it describes.

1. Throughout history, people have made pictures in different ways.
2. Early people painted on the walls of caves.
3. They used colorful pigments made from soil.
4. Egyptians boiled various plants to make dyes.
5. People in Asia made remarkable colors from clay.
6. European painters in the 1300s made paints from eggs.
7. Painters today often use acrylic paints.
8. Crayons made of wax and pigment come in bright colors.
9. Creative artists sometimes use crayons to draw pictures.
10. Sculptors sometimes make mammoth constructions out of metal.
11. They may also make collages of simple objects that they find.
12. Delicate drawings can be made with pen and ink.
13. Artists today do original work with videos.
14. They use computers to adjust digital photos.
15. Beautiful art can be found almost anywhere.



Adjectives

B Write an adjective to describe each noun. [Answers will vary.]

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. _____ sunset | 6. _____ painting |
| 2. _____ field | 7. _____ pizza |
| 3. _____ puppy | 8. _____ skateboard |
| 4. _____ boat | 9. _____ report |
| 5. _____ artist | 10. _____ computer |

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Adjectives

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- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>beautiful</u> sunset | 6. <u>abstract</u> painting |
| 2. <u>corn</u> field | 7. <u>pepperoni</u> pizza |
| 3. <u>labrador</u> puppy | 8. <u>broken</u> skateboard |
| 4. <u>old</u> boat | 9. <u>news</u> report |
| 5. <u>famous</u> artist | 10. <u>slow</u> computer |

Your answers will probably be different

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38 More Descriptive Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives tell about characteristics such as age, size, shape, color, taste, or origin.

In the old basket were large, round, red apples.

A Put each adjective in the appropriate column. Then add two adjectives of your own to each column.

circular **large** **Danish** **new** **pink**
purple **square** **young** **tiny** **Thai**

AGE [new]	SIZE [large]	SHAPE [circular]	COLOR [pink]	ORIGIN [Danish]
[young]	[tiny]	[square]	[purple]	[Thai]
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

B Complete each sentence with the correct adjective. Use the clue in parentheses for help. Use each adjective once. [Answers may vary.]

excellent **green** **Italian** **old** **popular**
delicious **healthful** **large** **orange** **sweet**

- Zucchini is an [Italian] (origin) word that means "little squash."
- Zucchini are [healthful] (quality) vegetables that are good for everyone.
- Because zucchini are low in calories, they are an [excellent] (quality) choice for dieters.
- Cooks choose zucchini with shiny, [green] (color) skins.
- Zucchini have a delicate, almost [sweet] (taste) flavor.
- Small zucchini are usually less bland than [large] (size) ones.
- People make [delicious] (taste) salads with raw zucchini.
- It is an [old] (age) custom in Italy to eat zucchini cooked with eggplant, tomatoes, and peppers.
- Another [popular] (quality) use of zucchini is in zucchini bread.
- The bright [orange] (color) and yellow zucchini flowers are also edible.



39 Definite Articles and Indefinite Articles

A, an, and the are types of adjectives that point out nouns. They are called **articles**. *The* is a **definite article**. *A* and *an* are **indefinite articles**. The article *an* is used before a vowel sound. The article *a* is used before a consonant sound.

The tourists went to an island for a vacation.

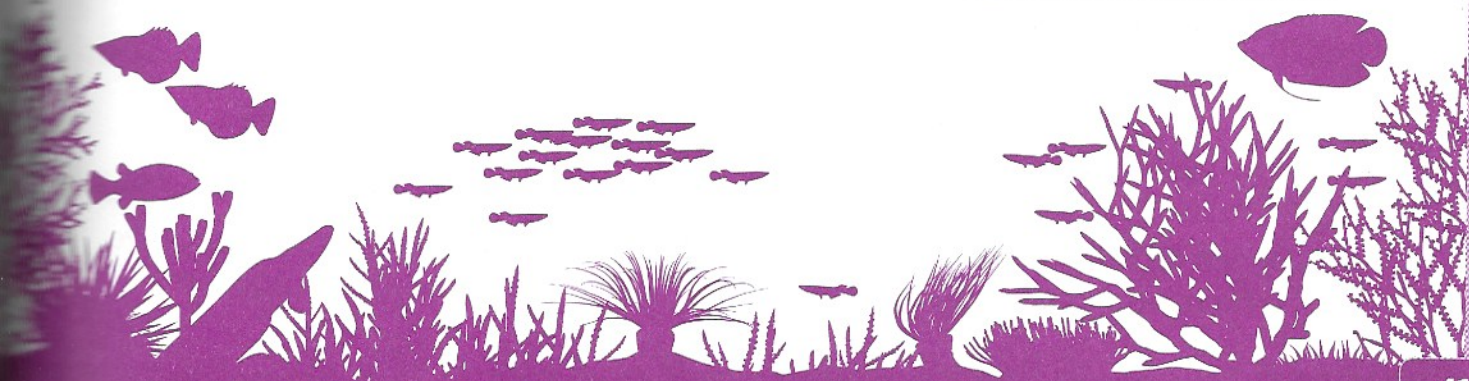
A Write the correct indefinite article before each word.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <u>[a]</u> lieutenant | 6. <u>[an]</u> application | 11. <u>[an]</u> elephant |
| 2. <u>[an]</u> eclipse | 7. <u>[a]</u> dinosaur | 12. <u>[a]</u> folktale |
| 3. <u>[an]</u> albatross | 8. <u>[a]</u> musician | 13. <u>[an]</u> egg |
| 4. <u>[a]</u> chauffeur | 9. <u>[an]</u> orphan | 14. <u>[an]</u> accident |
| 5. <u>[a]</u> hexagon | 10. <u>[a]</u> rainbow | 15. <u>[a]</u> cellular phone |

B Complete each sentence with definite or indefinite articles as indicated.

- [The] (*definite*) South Pacific has many islands.
- It is [a] (*indefinite*) part of [the] (*definite*) world that has more water than land.
- Volcanoes and atolls formed [the] (*definite*) islands of the South Pacific.
- [The] (*definite*) animals of [the] (*definite*) islands include bats and lizards.
- Sometimes [a] (*indefinite*) typhoon strikes [the] (*definite*) islands.
- [An] (*indefinite*) atoll is [a] (*indefinite*) coral reef that surrounds [a] (*indefinite*) body of water.
- [The] (*definite*) Great Barrier Reef, [a] (*indefinite*) wall of coral, is in Australia.
- On [a] (*indefinite*) reef there is [an] (*indefinite*) abundance of wildlife.
- You might see [a] (*indefinite*) shark hiding in [the] (*definite*) shadows.
- Would you like to visit [an] (*indefinite*) island in [the] (*definite*) South Pacific?

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40 Numerical Adjectives

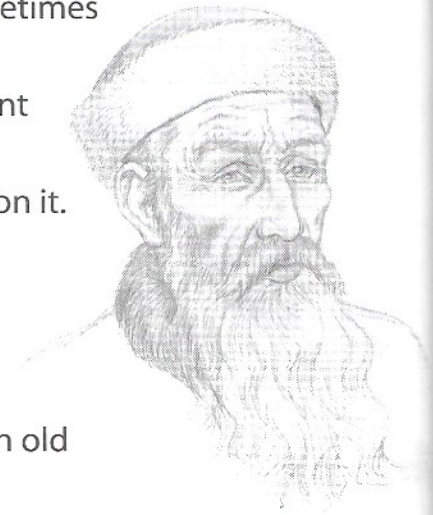
A **numerical adjective** indicates an exact number. It may refer to the number of persons or things, or it may refer to an arrangement of things in numerical order. Numerical adjectives may be written as numerals or as words.

Gutenberg was the first person to use movable type to print a book.

About 51 copies of the Bible he printed are known to exist today.

Underline each numerical adjective. Circle the noun it modifies.

1. Johann Gutenberg lived in Germany during the fifteenth century.
2. At that time books were copied by hand, and it sometimes took a scribe two years or more to copy a book.
3. Gutenberg, a skilled inventor and metal worker, spent 20 years on his printing experiments.
4. He used small pieces of metal, each with one letter on it.
5. His set of type had 290 different characters: letters, punctuation marks, and joined letters required by medieval Latin.
6. He created pages with the type and then printed one page at a time on a printing press made from an old wine press.
7. Soon after Gutenberg perfected his press, he had a disagreement with a partner and paid him 2,025 guilders, a great deal of money at that time.
8. Gutenberg printed two books, a Bible and another religious work.
9. This Bible had 42 lines of type on each page.
10. Each page had about 2,500 characters.
11. Six typesetters worked at the same time to set the type for the Bible.
12. It was printed in three volumes.
13. About 200 copies of the Bible may have been printed.
14. Gutenberg's system of typesetting was so good that it was used without significant change until the 20th century.
15. His method of printing survived for more than 400 years!



Johann Gutenberg worked patiently for 20 years on his printing experiments. Give an example of a situation in which you needed patience to achieve your goal.

41 Adjectives as Subject Complements

An adjective that follows a linking verb and completes the meaning of a sentence is called a **subject complement**. It describes or explains the subject.

SUBJECT (NOUN) **SUBJECT COMPLEMENT (ADJECTIVE)**
Switzerland **is** **mountainous**.

Underline each subject complement. Circle the noun it describes.

1. Switzerland is small.
2. The country is multilingual: people speak German, French, and Italian.
3. Switzerland has been neutral during wars.
4. The country's government is democratic.
5. Switzerland is wealthy.
6. The people are industrious and hardworking.
7. Swiss banks have long been famous around the world.
8. Industrial production is high.
9. Swiss products are excellent.
10. Swiss chocolate is delicious.
11. Swiss watches are famous.
12. The watches are extremely accurate.
13. Many Swiss watches are also expensive.
14. Swiss watchmakers have always been careful and precise in their work.
15. The weather is often rainy.
16. Winters are cold and snowy.
17. The weather can be foggy in the winter.
18. In winter, skiing conditions are excellent.
19. During winter months resorts are busy with skiers.
20. The Swiss countryside is beautiful.



Adjectives

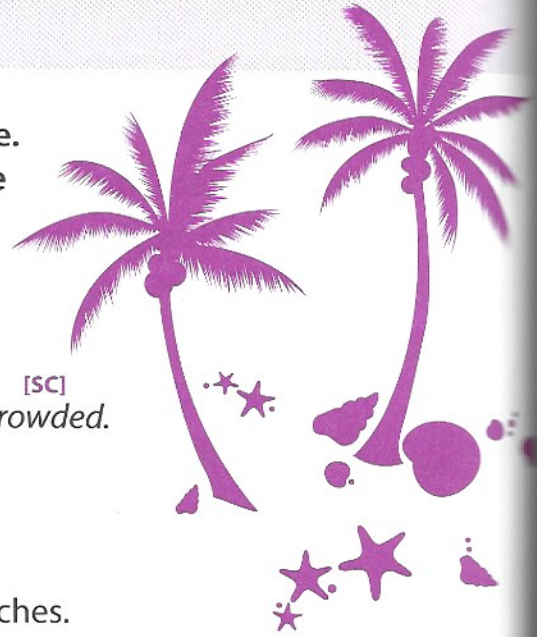
42 Position of Adjectives

An adjective can be used before a noun or following a linking verb as a subject complement.

Tidal waves are dangerous.

A Identify the position of each italicized adjective. Above the adjective write **BN** if it comes before the noun and **SC** if it is a subject complement.

- In summer the climate of Florida is *hot*. [SC]
- The weather is often *humid* too. [SC]
- During these *hot* months, the beaches are *crowded*. [BN] [SC]
- In winter, temperatures remain *warm*. [SC]
- Winter nights are usually *cool*. [BN] [SC]
- Florida has thousands of miles of *sandy* beaches. [BN]
- The *beautiful* beaches and *warm* climate attract tourists to Florida. [BN] [BN]
- Tourism is *important* to Florida's economy. [SC]
- Florida has *fabulous* restaurants with *excellent* seafood. [BN] [BN]
- Vacations in Florida can be *wonderful*. [SC]



B Underline each adjective that comes before a noun. Circle each adjective that follows a linking verb.

- The United States is rich in natural resources.
- Large rivers are useful for shipping.
- Northern forests are valuable for wood.
- Coal is a valuable resource that can't be renewed.
- Fossil fuels will not be plentiful forever.
- Fertile soils are rich in minerals.
- Certain metals are vital to the economy.
- American mines are large and productive.
- Natural resources are important to everyone.
- People should be careful to use them wisely.

43 Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Most adjectives have three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative. The **positive degree** describes a quality or a characteristic of a noun. The **comparative degree** is used to compare two items or two sets of items. It is formed by adding *-er* after the adjective or *more* or *less* before the adjective. The **superlative degree** is used to compare three or more items. It is formed by adding *-est* after the adjective or *most* or *least* before the adjective.

POSITIVE Hydroelectric power, produced by flowing water, isn't very old.

COMPARATIVE The steam engine is older than hydroelectric power.

SUPERLATIVE Power from wind and water are among the oldest types of power.

A Write the comparative and superlative degrees of each adjective.

1. sharp	<u>[sharper]</u>	<u>[sharpest]</u>
2. heavy	<u>[heavier]</u>	<u>[heaviest]</u>
3. large	<u>[larger]</u>	<u>[largest]</u>
4. good	<u>[better]</u>	<u>[best]</u>
5. cold	<u>[colder]</u>	<u>[coldest]</u>
6. expensive	<u>[more/less expensive]</u>	<u>[most/least expensive]</u>
7. honest	<u>[more/less honest]</u>	<u>[most/least honest]</u>
8. peaceful	<u>[more/less peaceful]</u>	<u>[most/least peaceful]</u>
9. annoying	<u>[more/less annoying]</u>	<u>[most/least annoying]</u>
10. dangerous	<u>[more/less dangerous]</u>	<u>[most/least dangerous]</u>

B On the line write **C** if the italicized adjective is in the comparative degree or **S** if it is in the superlative degree.

- [S] 1. Water is one of our *most important* natural resources.
- [C] 2. The hydroelectric-power process is *cleaner* than the coal-burning process.
- [S] 3. Water pollution is one of the country's *biggest* problems.
- [S] 4. Thirty years ago Lake Erie was one of the *most polluted* lakes in the country.
- [C] 5. Today the water in Lake Erie is much *purier*.



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Adjectives
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44 More Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

The comparative degree is used when two people, places, or things are compared.

Hurricanes are stronger than tornadoes. They are more destructive too.

The superlative degree is used when more than two are compared.

What was the strongest hurricane in history? Was it most destructive?

A Circle the correct adjective form in each sentence.

- Hurricanes are among the (dangerous most dangerous) types of storms.
- Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, was a (terrible more terrible) hurricane; it caused more than \$100 billion in damage.
- In some ways, however, it wasn't the (worse worst) hurricane in history.
- Which hurricane was the (most destructive more destructive) in history?
- A 1900 hurricane was (deadlier deadliest) than Katrina.
- That hurricane in Galveston, Texas, resulted in the (higher highest) death toll from a hurricane in the United States; about 8,000 people died.
- No storm has been (worse worst) in terms of loss of life.
- After the storm the city of Galveston built a (large largest) seawall.
- The seawall is the (more elevated most elevated) point of land on the island where Galveston is located.
- The city is (safer safest) from violent storms because of the seawall.

B Complete each sentence with the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.

- The sinking of the *Titanic* was one of the [most shocking] (shocking) events in the 20th century.
- It was also [worse] (bad) than any other tragedy at sea; more than 1,500 people died.
- When the *Titanic* was built in 1912, it was the [biggest] (big) passenger ship in the world.
- It was also one of the [most luxurious] (luxurious) ships.
- Nowadays ships are [safer] (safe) than the *Titanic* because they carry enough lifeboats for everyone aboard.

45 Little, Less, Least and Few, Fewer, Fewest

Concrete nouns name things that you can see, touch, and count. They have plural forms. Use *few*, *fewer*, or *fewest* to compare concrete nouns. **Abstract nouns** name things that generally you cannot see, touch, or count. They generally do not have plural forms. Use *little*, *less*, or *least* to compare abstract nouns.

CONCRETE

Tom had a few injuries.

Tom had fewer injuries than Joe does.

Tom had the fewest injuries of all the boys.

ABSTRACT

Tom had very little pain.

Tom had less pain than Joe.

Tom had the least pain of all the boys.

A Write *little* or *few* to complete each sentence.

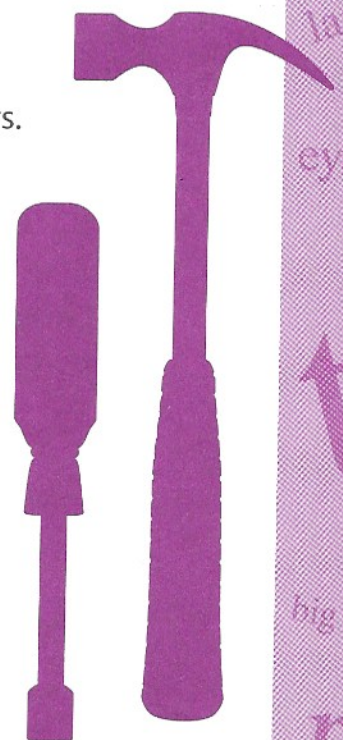
- Deserts get very [little] rain.
- Only a [few] animals can live in a desert environment.
- [Little] vegetation grows in the desert.
- [Few] types of plants can survive the harsh conditions.
- Many desert plants have very [few] leaves.

B Write *less* or *fewer* to complete each sentence.

- The carpenter had [fewer] hammers than screwdrivers.
- He had [fewer] tools than the other workers had.
- He made [less] progress than the others made.
- He also gave the others [less] advice.
- I think he made [less] money than anyone else.

C Write *least* or *fewest* to complete each sentence.

- My aunt has the [least] jewelry of the three women.
- She owns the [fewest] rings of all.
- She also has the [fewest] bracelets.
- She puts the [least] importance on material things.
- She has the [fewest] needs of anyone I know.



Adjectives



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46 Demonstrative Adjectives

A **demonstrative adjective** points out the thing it refers to. The demonstrative adjectives are *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*. *This* and *that* point out one person, place, or thing. *These* and *those* point out more than one person, place, or thing. *This* and *these* name people, places, or things that are near. *That* and *those* name people, places, or things that are far.

This rock is a special kind of rock—a fossil.

That rock contains a rare mineral, gold.

These rocks are made of quartz.

Those rocks are nothing but gravel.



A Underline each demonstrative adjective.

1. That scientist is a geologist.
2. The formation of this planet is a geologist's field of study.
3. These scientists collect rock samples for study.
4. Fossilized plants and animals help these people reconstruct the past.
5. Fossils are important in this kind of work.
6. Dating those specimens provides useful information to scientists.
7. Many areas of science benefit from this knowledge.
8. That insect was preserved in fossilized tree sap.
9. The name of that fossil is amber.
10. Those plants and animals preserved as fossils lived millions of years ago.

B Complete each sentence with a demonstrative adjective, based on the clue in parentheses.

1. That (*far*) scientist is a mineralogist.
2. This (*near*) branch of geology is the study of minerals.
3. Those (*far*) crystals are formed from minerals.
4. This (*near*) pencil contains a mineral—graphite.
5. These (*near*) rocks contain iron, another important mineral.



47 Those and Them

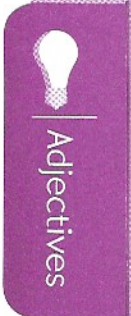
Those is used to point out something. *Those* may be an adjective or a pronoun. *Them* is always a pronoun. The personal pronoun *them* can never be used as an adjective.

ADJECTIVE **NOUN MODIFIED** **PRONOUN**
Those jackets are on sale. Those by the escalators are on sale too.

PERSONAL PRONOUN USED AS AN OBJECT
 I have two new jackets. I bought them at the sale.

A Circle the correct word in each sentence.

1. ((Those) Them) flowers bloom in the fall.
2. Do you know ((those) them) people?
3. Did you see ((those) them) boys playing soccer?
4. I have known (those (them)) for years.
5. Who wrote ((those) them) adventure stories?
6. Cory saw (those (them)) on television.
7. I have some of ((those) them) kinds of stamps in my collection.
8. Jane walked with (those (them)) through the park.
9. The principal congratulated (those (them)) for their good grades.
10. ((Those) Them) sentences were not difficult.



B Complete each sentence with **those** or **them**.

1. Those kinds of athletic shoes are expensive.
2. We sent an invitation to them.
3. Do you prefer these or those?
4. Are you going to continue fixing those two cars?
5. The answers are missing. Can you supply them?
6. He walked by his friends without noticing them.
7. Are those CDs for sale?
8. My father talked to them about moving to Texas.
9. I am not sure if Mom will like these or those.
10. Deciding between them will be difficult.

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48 Interrogative Adjectives

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

A Underline each interrogative adjective. Circle the noun it modifies.

1. Which (state) in the United States is the largest?
2. In which (state) was the first U.S. president inaugurated?
3. What (animal) is on the California state flag?
4. Whose (home) in Virginia is named Monticello?
5. Which (group) of islands forms a state?
6. Which (state) is called the "cradle of presidents" because so many presidents have come from there?
7. Whose (residence) is located in Washington, D.C.?
8. What (city) is the capital of Texas?
9. In which (city) is the Alamo located?
10. In what (state) was the Declaration of Independence approved?

B Complete each sentence with an interrogative adjective. For some sentences, more than one answer may be correct.

1. [Which/What] state has Raleigh as its capital?
2. In [which/what] state is the Willis Tower located?
3. [Which/What] land did Thomas Jefferson purchase for the United States?
4. In [what] year did Texas become a state?
5. In [whose] honor was Washington, D.C., named?
6. In [which/what] state will you find the Empire State Building?
7. [Whose] portrait is on a dime?
8. In [what] year did World War II end?
9. [Which/What] state is the smallest?
10. [Which/What] state do you live in?



49 Indefinite Adjectives

Indefinite adjectives refer to all or any of a group of people, places, or things. Some of the most common indefinite adjectives are *all, another, any, both, each, either, every, few, many, most, neither, no, other, several, and some*.

Read each proverb. Circle each indefinite adjective and underline the noun that it describes. One proverb has more than one indefinite adjective.

1. Time cures all things.
2. The rain falls on every roof.
3. A rolling stone gathers no moss.
4. One person's trash is another person's treasure.
5. Many hands make light work.
6. Every bird likes to hear itself sing.
7. Turn the other cheek.
8. Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet.
9. No news is good news.
10. Each day provides its own gifts.
11. There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is the same.
12. Some things are better left unsaid.
13. Any plan is bad that cannot be changed.
14. We have other fish to fry.
15. All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.
16. Every dog has its day.
17. Tomorrow is another day.
18. All good things must come to an end.
19. You can't have it both ways.
20. There is no proverb without a grain of truth.

