

Lesson 3- Adjectives in English

What are Adjectives?

An adjective is one of the nine parts of speech -An adjective is a word that describes ,tell and give us (modify/qualify)more information about a noun of a person ,an animal or a thing or a pronoun or a whole sentence.

Examples

Enormous, doglike, silly, yellow, fun, fast.

They can also describe the quantity of nouns: many, few, millions, eleven. Specifically, adjectives provide further information about an object's size, shape, age, color, origin or material. Here are some examples of adjectives :

- It's a **big** table. (size)
- It's a **round** table. (shape)
- It's an **old** table. (age)
- It's a **brown** table. (color)
- It's an **English** table. (origin)
- It's a **wooden** table. (material)
- It's a **lovely** table. (opinion)
- It's a **broken** table. (observation)
- It's a **coffee** table. (purpose)
- It's **nice**(quality)
- It's **hot**(temperature)
- A **daily** meeting (frequency)
- A **complete** meal(degree)

Generally, an adjective is used to answer the question What's like ? Adjectives serve another important role: they answer questions like, "Which one?" "How many?" and "What kind?" You

Can see how they do this job in the following examples:

- Which cat did you see? It was the grey cat.
- What kind of potatoes did you buy? I bought red potatoes.
- How many people like ice cream? Most people like ice cream.
- Which spoon did you use to stir the soup? I used the wooden spoon.
- What kind of coffee do you like? I like black coffee.

-Adjectives do not modify verbs or adverbs or other adjectives. They can go in different positions in a sentence. Further, an adjective often comes **BEFORE** a noun:

- a **dark** sky
- an **interesting** story

It is called an **attributive adjective**

And sometimes an adjective comes **AFTER** a verb, a linking verb like to be, feel and look (its

Grammatical function is as a **complement**):

- My car is **green**.
- His story seemed **interesting**.

It is called a **predicative adjective**

But adjectives can also modify pronouns (She is beautiful) examples:

- They were **empty**.
- Those are not **expensive**.

Note that we can often use two or more adjectives together (a beautiful young French lady / it is Black and white).

Adjective Form

A suffix is the ending portion of a word. They often follow familiar patterns. In general, many

English adjectives end with these suffixes:

- **-able/-ible**: adorable, invisible, responsible, uncomfortable

- **-al**: educational, gradual, illegal, nocturnal, viral
- **-an**: American, Mexican, urban
- **-ar**: cellular, popular, spectacular, vulgar
- **-ent**: intelligent, potent, silent, violent
- **-ful**: harmful, powerful, tasteful, thoughtful
- **-ic/-ical**: athletic, energetic, magical, scientific
- **-ine**: bovine, canine, equine, feminine, masculine
- **-ile**: agile, docile, fertile, virile
- **-ive**: informative, native, talkative
- **-less**: careless, endless, homeless, timeless
- **-ous**: cautious, dangerous, enormous, malodorous
- **-some**: awesome, handsome, lonesome, wholesome
- **-ish/-like**: childish, childlike
- **-y**: dirty, pretty

However, many adjectives have no obvious form.

-Sometimes ,a noun is used to modify another noun it is called a Noun modifier(which is an

Adjective) like in the following situations :

- We often use two nouns together to show that one thing is a part of something else:
 The **village** church
 The **car** door
 The **kitchen** window

In these examples, the first noun is called a noun **modifier**.