



Parts of speech

English I

Faculty of Sciences and Technology
Department of Fundamental Learning

Adjective

- An adjective is a word used to modify or describe a noun or a pronoun.
 - I like **red** flowers.
 - The man is **tall**.
 - He is **faster** than his friend.
 - The **junior** student studies at the **senior** campus.

Adjective

- Opinion (e.g., beautiful, valuable)
- Size (e.g., big, small)
- Shape or age (e.g., round, square, old)
- Color (e.g., black, green, red)
- Origin (e.g., Algerian, aquatic)
- Material (e.g., wooden, golden, metal, glass)

Adjective

- Many adjectives do not have prefixes or suffixes: good, thin, smart, simple, young
- We can form adjectives from nouns by adding suffixes to a noun.

Adjective

| Suffix | Noun | Adjective |
|--------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| -y | Luck, length | Lucky, lengthy |
| -al | Accident, nature, magic | Accidental, natural, magical |
| -ial | Commerce, finance | Commercial, financial |
| -ful | beauty | beautiful |

Adjective

| Suffix | Noun | Adjective |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------|
| -ly | human, king | humanly, kingly |
| -ish | Girl, child | Girlish, childish |
| -ic | Tragedy, artist | Tragic, artistic |
| -ous | Fame, mystery | Famous, mysterious |
| -able | Question | Questionable |

Adjective

| Suffix | Verb | Adjective |
|--------|----------|------------|
| -al | Judge | Judgmental |
| -ive | create | creative |
| -ous | continue | continuous |
| -able | Read | Readable |
| -ing | Annoy | Annoying |

Attributive and predicative adjectives

- Adjectives can be attributive (occurring before the noun) or predicative (occurring after the noun). Predicative adjectives usually follow a **linking verb** that connects the subject to the adjective.
 - The **dedicated** student studies everyday.
 - The student is **dedicated**.
 - The **smart** student is solving his assignment.
 - The student is **smart**.

Adjective

- Some adjectives can only be used in one position. For example, the word “main” can only be used in the attributive position, while the word “asleep” can only be used in the predicative position.
 - The **main** idea is that ...
 - The idea is **main**. X
 - The baby is **asleep**.
 - The **asleep** baby is ... X

Comparative Adjectives

- Comparative adjectives are used to compare two things. They are usually formed by adding the suffix “-er” or by adding “more” or “less” before the adjective.
- This house is **bigger** than that one.
- This flower is **more beautiful** than that.
- He is **taller** than Mr. Ahmed.
- He is **more intelligent** than this boy.
- This car is certainly **better**, but it's much **more expensive**.

Superlative Adjectives

- Superlative adjectives are used to indicate that something has the most or least of a specific quality. They are usually preceded by the definite article “the” and usually formed by adding the suffix “-est” or by adding “most” or “least” before the adjective.
- It was **the happiest** day of my life.
- Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world.
- That is **the best** book I have read.

Comparatives and Superlatives

- Add –er or –est to one-syllable words to make comparatives and superlatives:

| | | |
|-------|---------|----------|
| fast | faster | fastest |
| old | older | oldest |
| cold | colder | coldest |
| small | smaller | smallest |

Adjective

- Add –r or –st to adjectives ending in –e to make comparatives and superlatives:

| | | |
|-------|--------|---------|
| large | larger | largest |
| rare | rarer | rarest |
| nice | nicer | nicest |

Adjective

- If an adjective ends in a vowel and a consonant, double the consonant then add -er or -est to make comparatives and superlatives:

| | | |
|------|---------|----------|
| big | bigger | biggest |
| thin | thinner | thinnest |
| fat | fatter | fattest |

Adjective

- If an adjective ends in a consonant and *-y*, change *-y* to *-i* then add *-er* or *-est* to make comparatives and superlatives:

| | | |
|-------|---------|----------|
| happy | happier | happiest |
| busy | busier | busiest |
| easy | easier | easiest |

Adjective

- Use more/less and most/least to make comparatives and superlatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| careful | more/less careful | most/least careful |
| complicated | more/less complicated | most/least complicated |
| interesting | more/less interesting | most/least interesting |

Adjective

- Some adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative:

| | | |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|
| good | better | best |
| bad | worse | worst |
| far | farther/further | farthest/furthest |

Examples of Adjectives in Science

- Critical, competitive, analytical, efficient, intelligent, intellectual, brilliant, clever
- Natural, medical, physical, cognitive, pure, exact, applied, biological, mathematical, environmental, electrical, biomedical
- life-changing, world-changing, significant, powerful, meaningful, controlled, monitored, Experimental, logical, observational, quantitative, objective, conceptual

References

- Butterfield, J. (Ed.). (2015). *Fowler's dictionary of modern English usage* (4th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- British council. <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org>
- Ryan, E. (2023, October 03). *What Is an Adjective? | Definition, Types & Examples*. Scribbr.