

Lesson : The Adjective

1. What is an Adjective?

An **adjective** is a word that **describes or gives more information about a noun or a pronoun**. It helps us answer questions such as *What kind ? Which one ? How many ?*

Example:

- a **big** house
- an **interesting** book
- **three** students

Without adjectives, language becomes vague and imprecise.

2. Position of Adjectives in English

In English, adjectives usually appear in **two main positions**.

a) Before the noun (most common position)

Adjective + Noun

- a **beautiful** city
- a **difficult** exam
- an **honest** answer

In English, adjectives **do not change** according to gender or number.

a small room / two small rooms

a happy child / happy children

b) After linking verbs

Adjectives can also come **after certain verbs**, especially :
be, seem, become, feel, look, sound, taste

- The experiment is **successful**.
- She feels **tired**.
- The explanation seems **clear**.

3. Common Types of Adjectives

a) Descriptive adjectives

They describe qualities or characteristics.

- smart, heavy, fast, useful
- This is a **complex** theory.

b) Quantitative adjectives

They express quantity.

- some, many, few, several, all
- **Many** students find grammar difficult.

c) Demonstrative adjectives

They point to specific nouns.

- this, that, these, those
- **This** method is effective.

d) Possessive adjectives

They show ownership.

- my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- **Their** research is innovative.

4. Order of Adjectives

When more than one adjective is used before a noun, English follows a **specific order** :

Opinion → **Size** → **Age** → **Color** → **Origin** → **Material** → **Noun**

Example:

- a **useful small modern device**
- a **beautiful old French building**

✗ a French old beautiful building

✓ a beautiful old French building

5. Adjectives vs Adverbs (Common Confusion)

- **Adjectives** describe nouns.
- **Adverbs** describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Example:

- She is **careful**. (adjective → describes *she*)
- She works **carefully**. (adverb → describes *works*)

6. Common Mistakes to Avoid

✗ *She has a car red.*

✓ *She has a red car.*

✗ *The informations are important.*

✓ *The information is important.*

✗ *He is more tall than me.*

✓ *He is taller than me.*

7. Why Are Adjectives Important in Academic Writing ?

Adjectives help :

- make ideas **more precise**
- express **evaluation** (important, significant, relevant)
- clarify **scientific descriptions**

Example:

- a result → a **reliable** result
- a method → an **effective** method

However, in academic writing, adjectives should be used **carefully** and **objectively**.

8. Short Practice Activity

Underline the adjective in each sentence :

1. The results are **clear**.
2. This is a **difficult** concept.
3. She proposed an **interesting** hypothesis.
4. They conducted a **careful** analysis.