**We use adjectives to describe nouns**.-

An adjective is a [part of speech](https://www.thoughtco.com/part-of-speech-english-grammar-1691590) (or [word class](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-class-grammar-1692608)) that modifies a [noun](https://www.thoughtco.com/noun-in-grammar-1691442) or a [pronoun](https://www.thoughtco.com/pronoun-definition-1691685). In addition to their basic (or [positive](https://www.thoughtco.com/positive-degree-adjectives-and-adverbs-1691646)) forms (for example, *big* and *beautiful*), most adjectives have two other forms: [comparative](https://www.thoughtco.com/comparative-degree-adjectives-and-adverbs-1689881) (*bigger* and *more beautiful*) and [superlative](https://www.thoughtco.com/superlative-degree-adjectives-and-adverbs-1692162) (*biggest* and *most beautiful*). Adjectives often—but not always—serve as [modifiers](https://www.thoughtco.com/modifier-in-grammar-1691400), providing additional information about another word or word group, such as a noun or noun phrase. But adjectives can also themselves act as nouns in a sentence.

**Order of Adjectives in a sentence/phrase**

Adjectives usually come in this order: Order of placing Adjectives in Sentences

| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **General opinion** | **Specific opinion** | **Size** | **Shape** | **Age** | **Colour** | **Nationality** | **Material** |

[­](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/adjective-order)

**A beautiful extraordinary big round antique brown Japanese dining table**

Most adjectives can be used **in front of a noun**:

They have a ***beautiful house***.We saw a very ***exciting film*** last night.

Or **after a** [**link verb**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/node/1434) like be, look or feel:

Their house ***is beautiful***.That film ***looks interesting***.

A lot of [adjectives](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/adjectives) are made from verbs by adding *–ing* or *–ed*:

***-ing* adjectives**

The commonest *–ing* adjectives are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *amusing annoying boring disappointing exciting interesting* | *frightening tiring shocking surprising worrying* |

If you say something is *interesting*, you mean it *interests* you:

*I read a very* ***interesting*** *article in the newspaper today.*

If you say something is *terrifying*, you mean it *terrifies* you:

*That Dracula film was absolutely* ***terrifying****.*

***-ed* adjectives**

The commonest –*ed* adjectives are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *annoyed bored closed delighted disappointed* | *excited frightened tired worried* |

If something *bores*you, you can say you feel *bored*.

*We had nothing to do. We were really****bored****.*

If something *terrifies*you, you can say you are *terrified*.

*I didn’t really enjoy the Dracula film. Most of the time I was* ***terrified****.*

**Additional Explanations**

**-ed and –ing Adjectives**

**-ed Describes a feeling (Only to talk about people & Animals (non-animate things have no feelings)**

**-Ing Describes People/animals/ Things/ Places/ideas any noun etc (Causes the feeling)**

**They are Feeling verbs used as adjectives**

**The ing form causes the feeling which results in the ed feeling**

**Bored vs Boring**

**I’m bored/I feel bored with the weather, it’s been raining for one whole week now**

**The weather is boring**

**Interested vs Interesting**

**I’m interested to watch the play because the storyline is exceptionally interesting**

**Frustrated vs Frustrating**

**I felt frustrated because the exam was frustrating**

**Excited vs Exciting**

**I felt/ I was excited when I went to the amusement park because the roller coaster ride was exciting**

**Frightened vs Frightening**

**I felt frightened because the roller coaster was terribly frightening**

**Worried vs Worrying**

**Confused vs Confusing**

**Don’t confuse with feeling verbs such as**

**Feeling words used as verbs (For people or things)**

**Loved , hated , Envied etc..**

**Two adjectives**

We often have **two** [**adjectives**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/adjectives) in front of a [noun](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/nouns):

*a* ***handsome young*** *man  
a* ***big black*** *car  
that* ***horrible big*** *dog*

Some adjectives give a **general opinion**. We can use these adjectives to describe almost any noun:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *good* *bad* *lovely* *strange* | *nice* *beautiful* *brilliant* *excellent* | *awful* *important* *wonderful* *nasty* |

*He’s a* ***good****/****wonderful****/****brilliant****/****bad****/****dreadful*** *teacher.*

*That’s a* ***good****/****wonderful****/****brilliant****/****bad****/****dreadful*** *book.*

Some adjectives give a **specific opinion**. We only use these adjectives to describe particular kinds of noun, for example:

| **Food** | **Furniture, buildings** | **People, animals** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| delicious tasty | comfortable uncomfortable | clever intelligent friendly |

We usually put a **general** opinion **in front of a specific** opinion:

***nice tasty*** *soup  
a* ***nasty uncomfortable*** *armchair*  
*a* ***lovely intelligent*** *animal*

We usually put an **opinion** adjective **in front of a descriptive** adjective:

*a* ***nice red*** *dress  
a* ***silly old*** *man  
those* ***horrible yellow*** *curtains*

**Adjectives after link verbs**

We use some adjectives **only after a link verb**: “be verb”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *afraid* *alive* *alone* *asleep* *content* *glad* | *ill* *ready* *sorry* *sure* *unable* *well* |

I’m afraid/ My sister is ill / I was alone last evening/ I was asleep when you had called me/ I’m sorry/ I’m unable to help you right now... etc. / They were glad we came early…  
 - Some of the commonest -*ed* adjectives are normally used **only after a link verb**:

|  |
| --- |
| *annoyed* *bored* *finished* *pleased* *thrilled* |

My teacher was pleased to see us pass exams!  
We say:

*Our teacher* ***was ill****.  
My uncle* ***was*** *very* ***glad*** *when he heard the news.  
The policeman seemed* ***to be*** *very* ***annoyed****.*

but we do not say:

*We had ~~an~~* ***~~ill~~*** *~~teacher~~.  
When he heard the news he was* ~~a very~~ **~~glad~~** ~~uncle~~*.  
He seemed to be ~~a very~~* ***~~annoyed~~*** *~~policeman.~~*

**Three or more adjectives**

Sometimes we have **three** adjectives in front of a noun, but this is **unusual**:

*a* ***nice handsome young*** *man       
a* ***big black American*** *car       
that* ***horrible big fierce*** *dog*

It is **very unusual** to have **more than three** adjectives.

**Adjectives in front of nouns**

A few adjectives are used **only in front of a noun**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *north south east west* | *northern southern eastern western* | *countless occasional lone mere* | *indoor outdoor* |

We say:

*He lives in the* ***eastern district****.  
There were* ***countless problems*** *with the new machinery.*

but we do not say:

*~~The~~* ***~~district~~*** *~~he lives in is~~* ***~~eastern~~****~~.~~*  
*~~The~~* ***~~problems~~*** *~~with the new machinery were~~* ***~~countless~~****~~.~~*

**Comparative adjectives**

We use **comparative** [**adjectives**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/adjectives)to show change or make comparisons:

*This car is certainly* ***better****,**but it's much* ***more expensive****.  
I'm feeling* ***happier*** *now.  
We need a* ***bigger*** *garden.*

We use *than*when we want to **compare one thing with another**:

*She is two years older* ***than*** *me.  
New York is much bigger* ***than*** *Boston.  
He is a better player* ***than*** *Ronaldo.  
France is a bigger country* ***than*** *Britain.*

When we want to **describe how something or someone changes** we can use two comparatives with *and*:

*The balloon got* ***bigger and bigger****.  
Everything is getting* ***more and more expensive****.  
Grandfather is looking* ***older and older****.*

We often use [*the*](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/definite-article) with comparative adjectives to **show that one thing depends on another**:

***The faster*** *you drive,* ***the more dangerous*** *it is.*   
(= When you drive faster, it is more dangerous.)

***The higher*** *they climbed,* **the colder** *it got.*   
(= When they climbed higher, it got colder.)

**Superlative adjectives**

We use *the* with **superlative adjectives**:

*It was****the happiest day****of my life.  
Everest is****the highest mountain****in the world.  
That’s****the best film****I have seen this year.  
I have three sisters: Jan is****the oldest****and Angela is****the youngest****.*

**How to form comparative and superlative adjectives**

We usually add *–er* and *–est* to **one-syllable words** to make comparatives and superlatives:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *old* | *older* | *Oldest* |
| *long* | *longer* | *Longest* |

If an adjective **ends in *–e***, we add *–r* or *–st*:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *nice* | *nicer* | *Nicest* |
| *large* | *larger* | *Largest* |

If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *big* | *bigger* | *biggest* |
| *fat* | *fatter* | *fattest* |

If an adjective **ends in a consonant and *–y****,* we change *–y* to *–i* and add *–er* or *–est*:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *happy* | *happier* | *happiest* |
| *silly* | *sillier* | *silliest* |

We use *more* and *most* to make comparatives and superlatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *careful* | *more careful* | *most careful* |
| *interesting* | *more interesting* | *most interesting* |

However, with **these common two-syllable adjectives**, you can **either** add *–er*/*–r* and *–est*/*–st* or use *more* and *most*:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *common cruel gentle handsome likely* | *narrow pleasant polite simple stupid* |

*He is certainly* ***handsomer*** *than his brother.  
His brother is handsome, but he is* ***more handsome****.  
She is one of* ***the politest*** *people I have ever met.  
She is* ***the******most polite*** *person I have ever met.*

The adjectives ***good***, ***bad*** and ***far*** have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *good* | *Better* | *best* |
| *bad* | *Worse* | *worst* |
| *far* | *farther/further* | *farthest/furthest* |

We use words like *very*, *really* and *extremely* to make [adjectives](http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/node/1276/) stronger:

*It's a* ***very*** *interesting story.  
Everyone was* ***very*** *excited.  
It's a* ***really*** *interesting story.  
Everyone was* ***extremely*** *excited.*

We call these words **intensifiers**. Other intensifiers are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *amazingly exceptionally incredibly* | *particularly* *remarkably* *unusually* |

We also use *enough* to say more about an adjective, but *enough* comes **after** its **adjective**:

*If you are seventeen, you are* ***old******enough*** *to drive a car.  
I can't wear those shoes. They're not* ***big******enough****.*