



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

### Copyright and terms of use

**IIT Madras is the sole owner of the content available in this portal - [onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in](http://onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in) and the content is copyrighted to IIT Madras.**

- Learners may download copyrighted material for their use for the purpose of the online program only.
- Except as otherwise expressly permitted under copyright law, no use other than for the purpose of the online program is permitted.
- No copying, redistribution, retransmission, publication or exploitation, commercial or otherwise of material will be permitted without the express permission of IIT Madras.
- Learner acknowledges that he/she does not acquire any ownership rights by downloading copyrighted material.
- Learners may not modify, publish, transmit, participate in the transfer or sale, create derivative works, or in any way exploit, any of the content, in whole or in part.



# Some Important Concepts in Adjectives

Dr. Om Prakash

# Functions of Adjectives

Adjective in a sentence are provides information like size, shape, age, colour, origin or material. For example:

- He is a **big** man. (size)
- It is a **round** cup. (shape)
- It is an **old** house. (age)
- It is a **red** dress. (colour)
- It is a **Chinese** saucer. (origin)
- It is an **iron** bridge. (material)
- She is a **noble** woman. (opinion)
- It is an **abandoned** house. (observation)
- It is a **reading** hall. (purpose)

# How do we identify Adjectives?

**Many Adjectives in English have certain endings, such as**

- -able/-ible: uncomfortable, invisible, responsible, adorable etc.
- -al: viral, illegal, educational, gradual, critical, etc.
- -an: Indian, American, Mexican, urban, etc.
- -ar: popular, spectacular, vulgar, etc.
- -ent: competent, patient, intelligent, silent, violent, etc.
- -ful: shameful, powerful, harmful, thoughtful, beautiful, etc.
- -ic/-ical: synthetic, problematic, athletic, energetic, magical, scientific, etc.
- -ine: feminine, masculine, bovine, canine, equine, etc.
- -ile: fragile, agile, docile, fertile, virile, etc.
- -ive: selective, predictive, informative, native, talkative, etc.
- -less: harmless, careless, endless, homeless, senseless, etc.
- -ous: precious, delicious, notorious, cautious, dangerous, etc.
- -some: tiresome, awesome, handsome, lonesome, wholesome, etc.

# Nouns as Adjectives

- When an item is defined by its purpose, that word isn't usually an adjective, but it acts as one with the noun in that situation.
  - Dinner table
  - Music class
  - Study room
  - cricket player

# Attributive and Predicative Adjectives

## Adjectives with nouns and verbs

- When adjectives go before the noun, they are called attributive adjectives which give a particular information and detail about the following noun.
  - This is a **wonderful/effective/great** proposal. [attributive]
  - You are an **honest** person. [attributive]
  - I have an **old** car. [attributive]
  - This is a big **book**. [attributive]
- When adjectives go after linking verbs such as *be*, *look*, *become*, *seem*, etc. they are called predicative adjectives. They act as complement to the sentence to complete the sense.
  - This person looks **suspicious**. [predicative]
  - This place seems **unsafe**. [predicative]
  - She is **beautiful**. [predicative]
  - This book is big. [predicative]

# Different meanings of adjectives before the noun and after the verb

We can use some adjectives before the noun or after the verb but the meaning differs.

Attributive	Predicative
This <b>particular</b> work is so demanding that we need to give it some extra time. (here particular refers to a specific work not any other)	My father is very particular. He does not approve my coming home late. (here particular means not easy to accept any other thing.)
Her <b>late</b> husband left huge wealth after him. (here late means 'dead/deceased')	Some of you are always <b>late</b> in your class. (here late means 'not on time')
There are <b>certain</b> reasons for this delay in this project. (here certain means 'something, but not a specific reasons')	I was <b>certain</b> that you would succeed in your efforts. (certain means 'sure/definite')

# Adjectives before nouns that modify other nouns

- A noun (N) is sometimes used before another noun to give more information about it. They are noun modifiers. Adjectives (Adj) come before noun modifiers:
  - He has an [Adj] expensive [N] music [N] system.
  - That is a [Adj] high [N] performance [N] machine.

# Ordering of Adjectives in a phrase:

- **Before a Noun**
  - If it comes immediately before a noun, it's likely an adjective. For example, in "red dress," "red" is an adjective describing the noun "dress."
- **Between an Article and a Noun**
  - If it comes between an article like "the," "an," or "a" and is followed by a noun, it is definitely an adjective. For example, "the dirty room," "dirty" is the adjective describing the noun "room."
- **Between a Possessive and a Noun**
  - If it comes between a possessive pronoun or noun followed by another noun, it is an adjective. For example, in "his big office," "big" is an adjective to describe "office". Or "Ram's white shoes."
- **Between a Demonstrative and a Noun**
  - If a word comes between a demonstrative pronouns like "this," "that," "these," or "those" and a noun, it may be an adjective. For example, in "that aggressive moment," "aggressive" is an adjective describing "moment."
- **Between an Amount and a Noun**
  - If a word comes between an amount, including "some," "most," "all," or "a few," and a noun, it is often an adjective. For example, in the phrase "a few ordinary things," "ordinary" is an adjective describing "things."

# Adjectives Can Act As Complements

- Adjectives can also act as complements. Not every complement is an adjective, but some can be complements in a sentences. For example:
  - She is **intelligent**.
  - He is **sharp, witty, and responsive**.

# Order of adjectives in noun phrases with articles and degree modifiers

When adjectives are used before the noun (attributive function) along with degree adverbs they require different positions for the adjective phrase, for example:

indefinite article	degree adverb	adjective	noun
a/an	fairly very moderately Extremely Absolutely etc.	cold	day

# Unique Cases in Ordering with intensifiers

- **Quite: quite an expensive item**

[*a quite expensive item* is also possible when we write, however not as common]

- **Rather: a rather painful decision**

[*rather a painful decision* is also possible however not as common]