

# Adjectives and adverbs

## Adverbs - describing verbs

### Use:

Adverbs can be used to describe verbs. They describe HOW you do something.

Examples: She walks **quickly**; He sings **nicely**.

### Form:

1) You can make many adverbs by adding -ly to an adjective.

*slow -> slowly; loud -> loudly*

If an adjective ends in 'y', change it to an 'i'.

*heavy -> heavily; funny -> funnily*

Add 'ally' to adjectives ending in 'ic'.

*Physical -> physically; energetic -> energetically*

2) Some adverbs are irregular, and do not end in **ly**. These include:

good -> **well** *She dances well.*

hard -> **hard** *He works hard.*

fast -> **fast** *He runs fast.*

late -> **late** *He arrives late.*

3a) Usually, the adverb goes after the verb it describes.

*She talks quietly* NOT ~~*She quietly talks.*~~

*He runs fast.* NOT ~~*He fast runs.*~~

3b) If the verb has a direct object WITHOUT A PREPOSITION the adverb should go after the object.

*You sang that song nicely.* NOT ~~*You sang nicely that song.*~~

*He did the job well.* NOT ~~*He did well the job.*~~

3c) If the verb is followed by a preposition and an object, you can put the adverb in different places.

*He **quickly** walked to the shop.*

*He walked **quickly** to the shop.*

*He walked to the shop **quickly**.*

4) Adverbs are NOT used to describe the following verbs. These verbs use adjectives.

Be *I am quiet.* NOT ~~*I am quietly.*~~

Seem *It seems strange.* NOT ~~*It seems strangely.*~~

Look *That looks nice.* NOT ~~*That looks nicely.*~~

Smell *That smells good.* NOT ~~*That smells well.*~~

Sound *That sounds great.* NOT ~~*That sounds greatly.*~~

Feel *That feels funny.* NOT ~~*That feels funnily.*~~

5) Some words end in 'ly' but they are not adverbs. **Friendly** is an example. Friendly is an adjective.

We can say 'She is friendly' but not 'She talks friendly'. There is no adverb for friendly, but we can

say 'She talks in a friendly way'. **Elderly** and **lonely** are also adjectives, not

adverbs. **Kindly** and **early** are adjectives and adverbs.

## Adjectives Comparatives

### Use:

Use the comparative form to talk about how two things are different.

*I am taller than you.*

*This book is thicker than that one.*

### Form:

1) If an adjective has one syllable, add **er** to the end. If it ends in **e** already, just add **r**.

tall => taller    nice => nicer

thick => thicker    late => later

2) If an adjective ends in **one vowel and one consonant**, write the consonant again, then write **er**. But never write a **w** twice.

big => bigger    new => newer (NOT newwer)    thin => thinner    slow => slower (NOT slowwer)    slim => slimmer

*My brother is thinner than me.*

3) If an adjective has two syllables and ends in **y**, change the y to **i** and add **er**.

funny => funnier    silly => sillier

*Which of these books is funnier?*

5) Some adjectives have irregular superlative forms. These are listed below.

good => *better*

bad => *worse*

far => *further*

Add **than** after a comparative adjective to compare one thing with another. However, this is not always necessary.

*My house is smaller than yours.*

## Adjectives Superlatives

### Use:

Use the superlative form to describe something that is greater than any other thing.

*The Amazon is the longest river in the world.*

*Helen is the most intelligent student in the class.*

### Form:

1) Write **the** before all superlatives.

2) If an adjective is short and has one syllable, add **est** to the end. If it ends in **e** already, just add **st**.

tall        =>        **the tallest**  
thick      =>        **the thickest**

nice       =>        **the nicest**  
late       =>        **the latest**

2) If an adjective ends in **one vowel and one consonant**, write the consonant again, then write **est**. But never write a **w** twice.

big        =>        **the biggest**                      new       =>        **the newest** (NOT newwest)

thin       =>        **the thinnest**                      slow      =>        **the slowest** (NOT slowwest)

slim       =>        **the slimmest**

*The biggest cat in the world is the lion.*

- 3) If an adjective has two syllables and ends in **y**, change the y to **i** and add **est**.  
funny => **the funniest**      silly => **thesilliest**

*It's the silliest film I've ever seen!*

- 4) For other adjectives with two or more syllables, DON'T add est. Write **most** before the adjective.

interesting      =>      **the most interesting**      surprising      =>      **the most surprising**

*It's the most interesting book I've ever read.*

- 5) Some adjectives have irregular superlative forms. These are listed below.

good      =>      **the best**  
bad      =>      **the worst**  
far      =>      **the furthest**

- 6) a) **In** is often (but not always) used after a superlative adjective to describe where this statement is true.

**London is the biggest city in England.**  
**Everest is the highest mountain in the world.**

My brother is the tallest person in my family.

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## Descriptive adjectives

Among the different types of adjectives, descriptive adjectives (careless, black, small, long, fat, English, Mediterranean, three-cornered).are the most numerous. Remember that adjectives modify or describe nouns only and not verbs. Adjectives describe nouns that refer to action (**kind** act, **hard** work); state that comes after linking verbs (feel **tired**, was **excited**), or quality (**strong**wind, **sad** story).

Descriptive adjectives are the most numerous of the different types of adjectives. These adjectives describe nouns that refer to action, state, or quality (careless, dangerous, excited, sad, black, white, big, small, long, fat, English, Mediterranean, three-cornered).

*Examples:*

- **dangerous** chemicals
- **green** vegetables
- a **square** box
- a **big** house
- a **tall** tree
- a **cold** morning
- a **powerful** motorbike
- **English** language
- **Mediterranean** country

## Adjective of quantity

An adjective of quantity tells us the **number** (how many) or **amount** (how much) of a noun. But it doesn't say exactly how many or how much.

*Examples:*

- He has eaten **three** apples.
- I don't have **enough** pocket money.
- They brought along a few sandwiches.
- There is a **little** dust on the bookshelf.
- There are **some** birds in the tree.
- We have **much** wine for the guests.
- This long, thin centipede has **many** legs.

## Demonstrative adjective

There are four words that are used as demonstrative adjectives: **this**, **that**, **these**, **those**. We use **this** and **that** with nouns to show the nouns are singular (**this/that** computer = one computer) and **these** and **those** with nouns to show they are plural (these/those ants = more than one ant).

**plural**

*Examples:*

- **This dog** had no tail.
- **That pig** has a curly tail.
- **These trousers** are now too tight for me.
- **Those monkeys** are noisy.

Demonstrative adjectives should not be confused with demonstrative pronouns. Whether they are demonstrative adjectives or demonstrative pronouns depends on how they are used in a sentence. One way to distinguish between them is that demonstrative pronouns are not used before a noun. Instead, they are used by themselves in place of a noun.

## Possessive adjective

A possessive adjective, also called a possessive determiner, expresses possession of a noun by someone or something by modifying the noun. Possessive adjectives are the same as possessive pronouns. All the possessive adjectives are listed in the following table:

Possessive adjectives	
Singular	Plural
my	our
your	your
his	their
her	their
its	their

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