

Adjectives: a nice new house, you look tired

A

Sometimes we use two or more adjectives together:

- ☐ My brother lives in a **nice new** house.
- ☐ In the kitchen there was a **beautiful large round wooden** table.

Adjectives like **new/large/round/wooden** are *fact* adjectives. They give us factual information about age, size, colour etc.

Adjectives like **nice/beautiful** are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what somebody thinks of something or somebody.

Opinion adjectives usually go before fact adjectives.

	<i>opinion</i>	<i>fact</i>	
a	nice	long	summer holiday
an	interesting	young	man
	delicious	hot	vegetable soup
a	beautiful	large round wooden	table

B

Sometimes we use two or more fact adjectives together. Usually (but not always) we put fact adjectives in this order:



a **tall young** man (1 → 2)

big blue eyes (1 → 3)

a **small black plastic** bag (1 → 3 → 5)

a **large wooden** table (1 → 5)

an **old Russian** song (2 → 4)

an **old white cotton** shirt (2 → 3 → 5)

Adjectives of size and length (**big/small/tall/short/long** etc.) usually go before adjectives of shape and width (**round/fat/thin/slim/wide** etc.):

a **large round** table a **tall thin** girl a **long narrow** street

When there are two or more colour adjectives, we use **and**:

a **black and white** dress a **red, white and green** flag

This does not usually happen with other adjectives before a noun:

a **long black** dress (*not* a long and black dress)

C

We use adjectives after **be/get/become/seem**:

- ☐ **Be careful!**
- ☐ **I'm tired** and **I'm getting hungry**.
- ☐ As the film went on, it **became** more and more **boring**.
- ☐ Your friend **seems** very **nice**.

We also use adjectives to say how somebody/something looks, feels, sounds, tastes or smells:

- ☐ You **look tired**. / I **feel tired**. / She **sounds tired**.
- ☐ The dinner **smells good**.
- ☐ This tea **tastes** a bit **strange**.

But to say *how* somebody *does something* you must use an *adverb* (see Units 100–101):

- ☐ Drive **carefully!** (*not* Drive careful)
- ☐ Susan plays the piano very **well**. (*not* plays ... very good)

D

We say 'the **first two** days / the **next few** weeks / the **last ten** minutes' etc. :

- ☐ I didn't enjoy the **first two** days of the course. (*not* the two first days)
- ☐ They'll be away for the **next few** weeks. (*not* the few next weeks)