

250+
WORDS

ADVANCED ENGLISH ADJECTIVES



TIPS FOR PERFECT
PRONUNCIATION



EXAMPLES IN
CONTEXT



COMPREHENSION
ACTIVITIES

ADVANCED ENGLISH ADJECTIVES

This eBook will provide you with over 250 adjectives to help expand your vocabulary and increase your speaking and writing fluency. The layout of this eBook is designed to give you a visual representation of each adjective, along with pronunciation transcriptions and examples in context. The book is divided into categories to help you easily locate each word. You also have the opportunity to test your knowledge with comprehension activities.

To start, write a paragraph describing yourself and your home. Once you have read through this eBook, come back and replace some of your describing words with your newly learned advanced adjectives.

Use the lines below to write your paragraph.

EMOTIONS

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
enraged	/ɪn'reɪdʒd/	Tom became enraged when the agent couldn't solve his problem.
furious	/fjʊəriəs/	He was already furious and couldn't help but yell into the phone.
livid	/lɪvɪd/	The agent's response to his problem only made him more livid .



ANGRY



SAD

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
melancholy	/melənkɒli/	Maria had been feeling melancholy since graduating college.
glum	/glʌm/	She could not shake the glum feeling.
sorrowful	/sɔrəʊfl/	She was sorrowful and felt so alone.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
mesmerising	/mezməraɪzɪŋ/	It was her first winter in her new town. The fireworks of the winter carnival were mesmerising .
captivating	/kæptɪvɪtɪŋ/	She stood there frozen in their captivating beauty.
spellbinding	/spelbaɪndɪŋ/	She went home that night replaying the spellbinding events of the evening in her head.



INTERESTING



BOTHERED

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
grumpy	/grʌmpi/	Kim claimed she wasn't grumpy despite her obvious body language.
crabby	/kræbi/	I wasn't sure if it was the lack of sleep that made her crabby or something I had done.
cranky	/kræŋki/	We took a quick walk along the canal, and I could see that she was no longer cranky .

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
cheery	/tʃɪəri/	The leaves had begun to fall, and a cheery mood swept in with the autumn breeze.
elated	/ɪ'lətid/	Brenda was elated by the sights and the smells in the park.
gleeful	/gli:fli/	The beauty of autumn made her gleeful .



HAPPY



AFRAID

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
fearful	/fiəfl/	Jerry is very fearful of thunder during storms.
alarmed	/ə'lɑ:md/	He gets extremely alarmed and likes to hide behind his bed for safety.
rattled	/rætlid/	We try to calm him down, but it is difficult when he is so rattled .

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
distressed	/dɪ'strest/	He couldn't hide his distressed face.
agitated	/ædʒɪteɪtɪd/	We all knew he was agitated , but he wouldn't let on to what was bothering him.
unsettled	/ʌn'setld/	He just sat there, feeling unsettled , until the meeting was over.



UPSET

TRAITS



FRIENDLY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
sociable	/səʊʃəbl/	My dad has always been a sociable guy.
tender	/tendə(r)/	He has a tender way of dealing with people and makes friends wherever he is.
affable	/æfəbl/	He is affable and caring, and I am proud to call him Dad.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
dull	/dʌl/	It's not that I don't like school, it's just that it can be so dull .
drab	/dræb/	We sit in class with drab textbooks and listen to uninteresting lectures.
tedious	/ti:dɪəs/	I find all of it so tedious .



BORING



ENERGETIC

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
frisky	/frɪski/	My parents wanted a frisky dog, but had no idea how much energy Rocky would have.
lively	/laɪvli/	He is very lively and needs time to exercise his legs daily.
spirited	/spɪritɪd/	Luckily, Rocky's spirited attitude keeps them active.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
bitter	/bɪtə(r)/	Johnny talked excitedly about going to the playground all week. However, he quickly turned bitter when he saw the swings were closed.
disgruntled	/dɪs'grʌntld/	He was disgruntled and no longer wanted to ride his bike.
venomous	/venəməs/	He yelled out venomous words, as children often do in these situations.



MEAN



BRAVE

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
courageous	/kə'reɪdʒəs/	Arthur is a courageous man. He puts his life on the line each day he goes to work.
gallant	/gælənt/	He doesn't ask for praise, and his gallant efforts often go unnoticed.
daring	/deərɪŋ/	Nevertheless, his daring job calls him to new challenges each day.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
revered	/rɪ'vɪə(r)d/	What makes Candace such a good friend? Is it her revered bubbly personality?
enviable	/enviəbl/	I think it's her enviable smile that always makes me feel comforted.
admirable	/ædmərəbl/	She also listens without judgement, which is admirable .



LIKEABLE



FUNNY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
amusing	/ə'mju:zɪŋ/	Brandon is so amusing .
hilarious	/hɪ'lərɪəs/	He tells the most hilarious stories, and he's full of jokes.
comical	/kɒmɪkl/	He has such a comical way of speaking that always makes us laugh.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
bold	/bəuld/	People often describe Yana as being bold because of her thrill-seeking ways.
intrepid	/ɪn'trepɪd/	She is definitely intrepid . I couldn't do half the things she does.
audacious	/ɔ:dɪʃəs/	I saw that she was rock climbing in Bali last week. I hope to be audacious one day.



ADVENTUROUS



STRANGE

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
peculiar	/pɪ'kjʊ:liə(r)/	My boss had the peculiar idea of dressing up as Big Bird for a cycling race.
bizarre	/bɪ'za:(r)/	He showed up in a bizarre costume, ready to cycle for 50 kilometres.
uncanny	/ʌn'kæni/	It's that kind of uncanny thinking that sets him apart.

SENSATION

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
bleary-eyed	/blɪəri 'aɪd/	Rex and Ali went out for a morning run. It was so early that Ali was bleary-eyed .
weary	/wɪəri/	He felt weary as he walked back to his flat.
groggy	/grɒgi/	Ali fell into his bed as groggy as ever while Rex lay there patiently, ready for the next adventure.



TIRÉD



HUNGRY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
famished	/fæmɪʃt/	Isabella was famished ! She hadn't eaten anything on the 10-hour flight.
peckish	/pekiʃ/	Peckish didn't begin to describe how she felt when she finally arrived at the night market.
ravenous	/rævənəs/	Isabella knew what she wanted to eat and was ravenous by the time she bit into her tostada.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
nauseous	/nɔ:ʒəs/	My aunt woke up this morning feeling nauseous .
queasy	/kwi:zi/	She had a queasy feeling in her stomach and couldn't get out of bed.
feverish	/fi:vərɪʃ/	She felt feverish , so she lay in bed all day, allowing her body to rest.



ILL

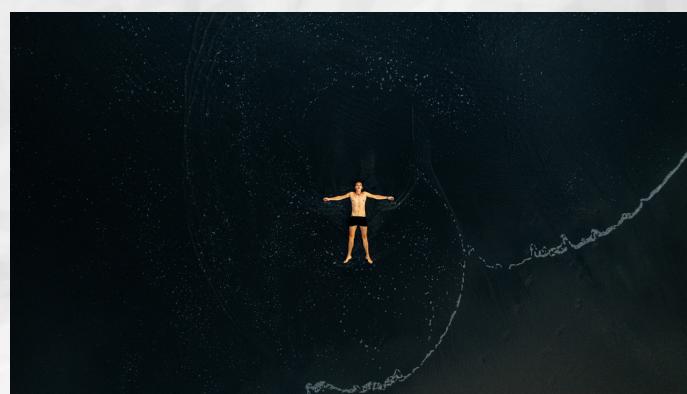


CONFUSED

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
befuddled	/bɪ'fʌldɪd/	The new engineer was befuddled by all of the software he needed to use.
foggy	/fogi/	Everything he had learnt in training was foggy in his mind.
baffled	/bæfld/	He hopped around from program to program baffled by what he needed to do.

COLOURS

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
inky	/ɪŋki/	Brad noticed the sand near the volcano was inky and resembled oil.
raven	/reɪvn/	He was tired from walking and laid down on the raven shore.
onyx	/ɒnɪks/	He closed his eyes and became one with the onyx landscape.



BLACK



RED

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
crimson	/krɪmzn/	My mum and I love to collect crimson flowers in spring.
scarlet	/skɑːlət/	She loves the scarlet hue of the petals as the sun passes through.
ruby	/ruːbi/	I prefer the ruby buds just before they bloom.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
sapphire	/sæfəɪə(r)/	We had been driving for hours when we noticed the sky had turned a beautiful sapphire above our heads.
denim	/dɛnɪm/	We pulled in to admire the denim clouds.
navy	/neɪvi/	The navy mountains in the distance looked as if they were from another planet.



BLUE



WHITE

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
cream	/kriːm/	There is nothing better than curling up in my cream -coloured blanket on a Sunday afternoon.
pearl	/pɜːl/	My husband knows to bring me my tea in my pearl mug.
off-white	/ɒf 'waɪt/	He never forgets to use the off-white tray he bought for me in Spain.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
canary	/kə'nəəri/	I have fond memories of my grandmother's house, especially the canary tablecloth she used to use.
amber	/æmbə(r)/	The walls of her kitchen were amber , scattered with beautiful artwork.
buttery	/bʌtəri/	She never cleaned the windows, so a buttery , light shone through, creating an inviting atmosphere.



YELLOW



BROWN

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
cinnamon	/sɪnəmən/	Cinnamon leaves covered the ground like a thick carpet.
ochre	/əʊkə(r)/	The ochre trees would not show signs of life for months.
khaki	/ka:ki/	The khaki canopy kept the forest cool and still.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
emerald	/emərəld/	My grandfather taught me how to garden. He showed me to look for emerald leaves because they are the most nutritious.
olive	/ɒliv/	Some of the younger saplings had olive stems.
jade	/dʒeɪd/	Sometimes, I would pluck a few of the beautifully coloured jade leaves of kale to snack on.



GREEN

TEXTURES



SOFT

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
downy	/daʊni/	My daughter never goes anywhere without her stuffed rabbit. Its downy fur helps her relax.
velvety	/velvəti/	However, it's not as velvety as it once was.
silky	/sɪlkɪ/	She likes stroking the label as it's really silky .



ROUGH

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
rutted	/rʌtɪd/	Bill and Hannah are testing to see how well their camper handles the rutted roads of the outback.
bumpy	/bʌmpi/	The bumpy terrain is going to be a challenge.
pitted	/pɪtɪd/	They will stay away from the most pitted areas to avoid any serious damage.



SMOOTH

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
sleek	/sli:k/	Alexandra wished the ice was sleeker before she began her routine.
glassy	/gla:sɪ/	Whenever she practised, she ensured the rink was glassy without any imperfections.
polished	/polɪʃt/	Despite the ice not being as polished as she liked, she still performed well.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
jagged	/dʒægd/	Artem had always dreamed of seeing the jagged Yellow Mountains.
pointed	/pɔɪntɪd/	The pointed rocks proved challenging as he climbed to the peak.
bristled	/brɪslɪd/	It was all worth it as he looked out over the bristled landscape.



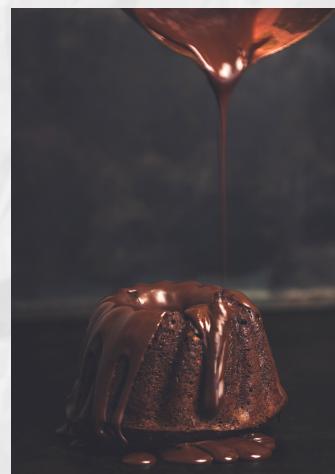
SHARP



BUBBLY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
effervescent	/efə'vesnt/	Pedro is obsessed with coffee. Specifically, the effervescent layer of milk on top.
frothy	/frɒθi/	Though he doesn't like all frothy drinks, he'll drink coffee all day.
foamy	/fəʊmi/	There is just something about a creamy, foamy latte that drives him crazy.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
flowing	/fləʊɪŋ/	Chef Pierre prepared his famous dessert with a flowing chocolate sauce.
runny	/rʌni/	We watched in amazement as the runny chocolate covered the pastry.
fluid	/fluːɪd/	The fluid river of chocolate made our mouths water, and we couldn't wait to dig in.



LIQUID



STICKY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
gluey	/glu:i/	Ice cream is the perfect treat in summer, except when it melts into a gluey mess in your hand.
syrupy	/sɪrəpi/	You end up all syrupy , and a serviette doesn't even help.
tacky	/tæki/	I end up looking for the nearest toilet to clean up the tacky mess.



WORN

AGE/TIME



YOUNG

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
adolescent	/ædə'lesnt/	It was my first year teaching adolescent children, and I was very nervous.
youthful	/ju:θfl/	On the first day, a youthful energy filled my classroom.
juvenile	/dʒu:vənəil/	Some of their behaviour was a bit juvenile , but in general, they were very good.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
elderly	/'eldəli/	My father was an elderly man before I truly got to know him.
aged	/eɪdʒɪd/	He was beginning to look aged , and I wanted to ask the questions I had been meaning to for many years.
getting on	/getɪŋ ɒn/	He was really getting on , but he answered with a youthful spirit.



OLD



NEW

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
pristine	/prɪsti:n/	My brother just bought a pristine pair of shoes without a single mark on them.
mint	/mɪnt/	He says he's not going to wear them because he wants to keep them in mint condition.
fresh	/frefʃ/	What is the point of keeping them fresh if he's not going to use them?

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
present-day	/'preznt 'deɪ/	Present-day architecture often leaves something to be desired.
current	/kʌrənt/	Architects create flashy designs that are current , but have no real depth or longevity.
contemporary	/kən'temprəri/	I don't think these contemporary designs will stand the test of time.



MODERN



FAST

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
nimble	/nɪmbl/	Dimitri is a nimble delivery driver in central London. What makes him unique is that he uses his bicycle, not a motorbike.
agile	/ædʒaɪl/	He is agile and never misses a delivery.
swift	/swɪft/	The swift movements he makes between cars on the road look like a dance he has choreographed.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
easy-going	/i:zi 'gəʊɪŋ/	You could not describe my sister as being easy-going . I swear she is always in a hurry.
carefree	/keəfri:/	However, she feels truly carefree while relaxing in a hammock on holiday.
unhurried	/ʌn'hʌrid/	It is in these unhurried moments that she can truly decompress.



RELAXED

WEATHER



RAINY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
drizzly	/drɪzli/	London is known for its drizzly days.
showery	/ʃoʊəri/	However, a showery trip to London can be thoroughly enjoyable.
damp	/dæmp/	Don't forget your umbrella on these damp days; you will regret it if you do...

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
inclement	/ɪn'klemənt/	It was sudden how the weather went from sunny to inclement in a matter of minutes.
raging	/reɪdʒɪŋ/	We had to run for cover as the raging winds began to whip around us.
turbulent	/tɜ:bjələnt/	The turbulent clouds started to twist and darken as we drove away.



STORMY



WINDY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
blustery	/blʌstəri/	Abby was shocked by the blustery weather.
breezy	/bri:zi/	She was used to breezy days back home, but this seemed much more intense.
gusty	/gʌsti/	The gusty weather broke her umbrella, and she ended up sitting in her hotel room for the rest of the day.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
blazing	/bleɪzɪŋ/	What does Christian like to do when it is blazing outside? He likes to play with the sprinklers.
blistering	/blɪstərɪŋ/	When the temperature is blistering , he knows that it is his time to go outside and have some fun.
sweltering	/sweltərɪŋ/	It is a great way for him to cool down on sweltering summer days.



HOT



COLD

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
frigid	/frɪdʒɪd/	Our neighbour seemed to love the frigid temperatures of winter.
biting	/baɪtɪŋ/	He would put on his coat and hat and brave the biting winds.
piercing	/pɪəsɪŋ/	It never seemed to bother him, even when the piercing temperatures seemed to freeze me to my core.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
mild	/maɪld/	It was the first mild day of autumn.
temperate	/tempərət/	The temperate climate was perfect for a hike and a picnic.
comfy	/kʌmfɪ/	One could get lost roaming the hills, enjoying the comfy temperature.



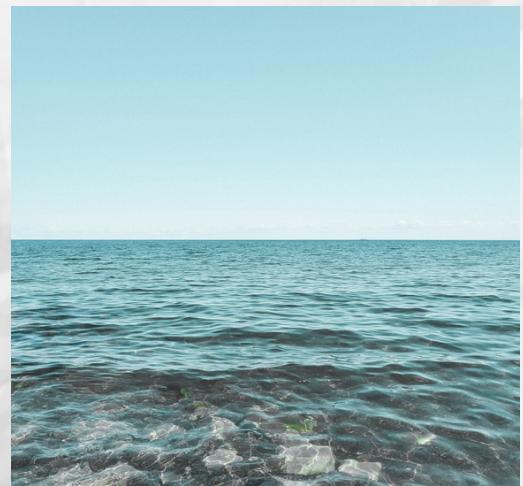
WARM



CLOUDY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
overcast	/,əʊvə'ka:st/	They knew their trip would be cut short when they saw the overcast sky.
dreary	/drɪəri/	The dreary day made for a long drive home.
gloomy	/glu:mi/	It wasn't long before the gloomy sky turned into a full downpour.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
cloudless	/klaʊdləs/	The cloudless sky seemed to stretch for miles.
bright	/braɪt/	A bright day meant the mood in town would be cheerful.
sunny	/sʌni/	Everyone longed for sunny days.



CLEAR

TASTE



SWEET

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
treacly	/tri:kli/	Stephanie brought an amazing cake, but the icing was so treacly I couldn't eat it.
sugary	/ʃʊgəri/	I love sugary foods, but this was too much.
sickly	/sɪkli/	Chocolate cake is good on its own. It doesn't need anything sickly sweet added to it.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
briny	/braɪnɪ/	The briny air filled my nose and lungs as we set sail.
brackish	/brækɪʃ/	Brackish water hit my face and stung my eyes.
saline	/seɪlnaɪn/	A saline taste was left on my lips after our day out at sea.



SALTY



BITTER

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
harsh	/haʃ/	Grapefruits have a harsh taste that not everyone enjoys.
astringent	/ə'strɪndʒənt/	It is very astringent and wildly different from other citrus fruits like oranges and mandarins.
acrid	/ækrid/	It's better to add a bit of sugar to get rid of the acrid flavour.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
acidic	/ə'sɪdɪk/	Nothing says vacation like a slightly acidic ice cold lemonade.
sharp	/ʃa:p/	I enjoy the sharp taste of freshly squeezed lemon juice.
tangy	/tæŋji/	Its tangy aroma always helps me relax.



SOUR



CREAMY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
rich	/ritʃ/	Every summer, mum would make the richest and most delicious ice cream sandwiches.
milky	/mɪlkɪ/	The milky homemade ice cream was out of this world.
luscious	/lʌʃəs/	I hope she will make this luscious treat for me when I come to visit.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
hot	/hɒt/	I knew the curry would be hot when I saw the chilis sitting on top.
peppery	/'pepəri/	I didn't realise just how peppery it would be until I took the first bite.
fiery	/faɪəri/	I still have memories of that fiery dish, and despite the pain, I want to try it again.



SPICY

APPEARANCE



TALL

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
gangly	/gæŋgli/	Despite Josiah's gangly build, he became a star basketball player.
lanky	/læŋki/	He was a bit lanky and awkward as a child, but he proved himself on the court.
long-legged	/lɔŋ 'legɪd/	Now, everyone fears that long-legged powerhouse when he has the ball.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
soaring	/sɔ:(r)ɪŋ/	I had never lived in a big city, and the soaring skyscrapers took some getting used to.
towering	/taʊərɪŋ/	It felt odd to look up and see these towering metal and glass structures everywhere I went.
lofty	/lofti/	We don't have these lofty buildings in the countryside.



HIGH



SMALL

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
petite	/pə'ti:t/	Carla had always wanted a puppy, something petite she could take around with her.
tiny	/taɪni/	She finally adopted Bella, a tiny poodle that was only a few weeks old.
wee	/wi:/	Now, that wee dog follows her around everywhere.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
lean	/li:n/	They couldn't believe the flamingos were standing right in front of them. They were lean and very elegant.
scraggly	/skrægli/	Their legs looked like scraggly , pink twigs sticking out of the murky water.
slim	/slɪm/	It was almost as if it were a forest of slim bamboo, with birds on the tops.



THIN



WIDE

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
broad	/brɔ:d/	The orchestra began to set up on the broad stage in the centre of the room.
spacious	/speɪʃəs/	It was a spacious theatre with plenty of seating.
vast	/va:st/	I knew the sound would be incredible in this vast space.

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
slender	/slendə(r)/	I was surprised to see so many slender alleyways when I went to India.
tight	/taɪt/	The tight spaces were only big enough for a bicycle to get through.
cramped	/kræmpt/	However, the cramped space meant that you could easily talk to your neighbour if you wanted to.



NARROW



ATTRACTIVE

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
alluring	/ə'lʊərɪŋ/	There is nothing I enjoy more than strolling through the alluring palace of Versailles.
enticing	/ɪn'taɪsɪŋ/	The enticing paintings and tapestries on the walls are to die for.
glamorous	/glæmərəs/	Don't even get me started on the glamorous chandeliers and statues!



Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
dishevelled	/dɪ'sevld/	We returned from the rugby match completely dishevelled and in need of showers.
grimy	/graɪmi/	We left our grimy boots outside the house.
grubby	/grʌbi/	Mum would have been livid if we'd left her floor all grubby .

FILTHY



PLAIN

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
ordinary	/ɔ:dneri/	My dad's house is fairly ordinary . It's not too big or too small.
simple	/simpl/	He likes to keep things simple , so he has white walls with few accessories.
conventional	/kən'veenʃənl/	It's a more conventional style, but it still feels homey.



UGLY

Adjective	IPA Transcription	Example
unsightly	/ʌn'saɪtlɪ/	Most people don't choose unsightly fruit. They want ones with bright colours.
unattractive	/ʌnə'træktɪv/	I actually prefer them. The more unattractive , the better for me.
displeasing	/dɪs'pli:zɪŋ/	The reason is that fewer people touch and squeeze the displeasing ones, which means they are still beautiful on the inside.

DID YOU KNOW?

When using multiple adjectives in a sentence, they must be ranked accordingly:

opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material, purpose.

Unlike other rules of grammar or syntax, this one is virtually absolute.

Activity

Choose an adjective from the box to complete each sentence.

navy	captivating	shabby	fiery	biting	slender
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1) We were excited to try the _____ chicken that we had heard about, but it was too hot! We couldn't even eat it!

2) The _____ weather in Canada was too much for my family. We ended up moving somewhere warmer.

3) You can't wear that _____ suit to your sister's wedding. This is a special occasion. Please wear something nice.

4) He painted our bedroom wall a dark _____ while I was away. It is much too dark now, and I hate being in there!

5) The _____ music of the band on stage grabbed our attention while we were eating.

6) Choose the word that isn't related to: small

- a. petite
- b. small
- c. vast
- d. wee

7) Choose the word that isn't related to: tired

- a. uncanny
- b. bleary-eyed
- c. weary
- d. groggy

8) Replace the underlined word in the sentence below with an advanced adjective:

Petra and Georgina hiked on a rough trail for 15 kilometres to see the sunset.

The End