

Adjectives

DIFFERENT TYPES

Adjective Types - Introduction

We can group adjectives into six common types.

- Descriptive
- Quantitative
- Demonstrative
- Possessive
- Interrogative
- Distributive

Adjective Types – Descriptive Examples

Descriptive adjectives are probably the most common in use.

When you think of an adjective to describe nouns, they are probably these.

- The dog is *hungry*.
- Tom is *exhausted*.
- Jill's paintings are *amazing*.
- Paul's a comedian – he is *funny*.
- The flowers are *lovely* and have a *wonderful* smell.
- The *red* sofa has *green* cushions with *blue* stripes.

Adjective Types – Quantitative Examples

These are adjectives of number or quantity.

They answer the question, “How many?”, or “How much?”

- *Twenty-seven* people are swimming in the pool.
- My brother has *three* children.
- Please go to the shops and buy *eight* apples and *seven* bananas.
- I think your plants need *more* water.
- Did you really eat the *whole* cake?
- The old woman has *many* grandchildren.

Adjective Types – Demonstrative Examples

Demonstrative adjectives point out (pro)nouns.

They always come directly before the word that they refer to.

There are four common demonstrative adjectives.

This, that, these and those.

- Would you like *this* cake, or *that* cake?
- I would like to buy *that* shirt.
- Why did you buy *these* pears? They're already rotten!
- I wonder who own *those* horses – they're magnificent!

Adjective Types – Possessive Examples

Possessive adjectives show ownership or possession.

My, her, their, your and *our* have to be followed by a noun.

Mine, hers, theirs, yours and *ours* are used without a noun.

His can be used both with and without a noun.

- Whose bike is that? “It’s *my* bike.” or “It’s *mine*.”
- Peter sold *his* car to Susan – it’s *hers* now.
- If you think *their* house is grand, you should see *ours*.
- *Your* cake is delicious – so much nicer than *mine*.

Adjective Types – Interrogative Examples

Interrogative adjectives ask questions.

They are *what*, *which* and *whose*.

They are always followed by a noun.

- *What* film do you want to watch this evening?
- What do you want to do this evening?
- *Which* tie do you like with this suit?
- Do you know *whose* car that is?

Adjective Types – Distributive Examples

Distributive adjectives are used to single out one of more 'things'.

Common distributive adjectives are *each*, *every*, *(n)either* and *any*.

They are always followed by a noun.

- Linda wore a bracelet on *each* ankle.
- *Every* employee will receive a bonus this year.
- I don't mind what we watch – *either* film is fine by me.
- *Neither* Bob nor Andy is qualified for the position.
- You can choose the music – put on *any* CD you like.
- The bride received *each and every* present on her wish-list.