

Compound Adjectives (Hyphenated Adjectives)

Compound adjectives are formed by combining two or more words with a hyphen.

For example, a businessman makes a deal that costs *a million dollars*. It is a _____ deal.

Notice that the “s” on dollars is dropped when it becomes part of the adjective.

There can be several words combined to make this kind of adjective. Here are some examples:

- a ***once-in-a-lifetime*** offer
- an ***in-your-face*** attitude
- a ***more-than-I'd bargained-for*** result

Exercise: Complete the sentences below, using information in the sentence to make compound adjectives.

1. A car that costs \$25,000 is a _____ car.
2. A cake made at home is a _____ cake.
3. A boy who is three years old is a _____ boy.
4. A person having a lot of Internet savvy is an _____ person.
5. Season premieres that are free of commercials are _____ shows.
6. A recipe that is tried and true is a _____ recipe.
7. A grandfather who is 80 years old is an _____ grandfather.
8. A bus ride that is over an hour long is an _____ bus ride.

Often, when a verb becomes part of the adjective, the ***present participle*** is used.

For example, someone who drinks so much tea that her friends find her a bit fanatic could be described as a ***tea-drinking*** fanatic.

1. A people that fears God is a _____ people.
2. Citizens who abide by the law are _____ citizens.
3. Consequences that reach far are _____ consequences.
4. A neighbour who hates dogs is a _____ neighbour.
5. A speech that provokes thought is a _____ speech.
6. A story that breaks your heart is a _____ story.