

# ADJECTIVES

Adjectives have two sentence patterns in English.

| # | Pattern          | Adjective Placement   | Examples   |
|---|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | adjective + noun | Adjectives can be placed <u>before</u> the <u>noun</u> they describe.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She has a <b>red</b> car.<br/>(<i>red</i> describes the noun <b>car</b>)</li><li>• The <b>lazy</b> student didn't do his homework.<br/>(<i>lazy</i> describes the noun <b>student</b>)</li></ul> |
| 2 | be + adjective   | Adjectives can be placed <u>after the verb "to be"</u> ( <i>is, am, are, was, were, will be, etc.</i> )<br><br>The noun that the adjective is describing comes <i>before</i> the "be" verb. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• My brother is <b>happy</b>.<br/>(<i>happy</i> describes the noun <b>brother</b>)</li><li>• Those jeans were <b>expensive</b>.<br/>(<i>expensive</i> describes the noun <b>jeans</b>)</li></ul>   |

# ADJECTIVES

In English, we add a suffix (ending) to a noun or a verb to make an adjective.

In English, many adjectives are formed by adding a common adjective suffix to a noun.

| Noun   | Adjective |
|--------|-----------|
| danger | dangerous |
| logic  | logical   |

Other adjectives are formed by adding *-ed* or *-ing* to a verb. These are called **participial adjectives**.

| Verb    | Adjective              |
|---------|------------------------|
| excite  | excited,<br>exciting   |
| inspire | inspired,<br>inspiring |

Some adjectives have no suffixes, usually because they don't come from nouns or verbs.

- common
- big
- small
- hot
- cold
- green

# ADJECTIVES

In English, we add a suffix (ending) to a noun or a verb to make an adjective.

| Suffix | Example     |
|--------|-------------|
| -able  | lovable     |
| -al    | logical     |
| -ant   | important   |
| -ed    | excited     |
| -ent   | independent |
| -ful   | careful     |
| -ible  | sensible    |
| -ic    | energetic   |
| -ing   | exciting    |
| -ive   | attractive  |
| -less  | careless    |
| -ous   | dangerous   |
| -y     | healthy     |

## Note #1:

Not all adjectives have a suffix.

- big
- small
- common
- hot
- cold
- soft
- good
- bad
- green

## Note #2:

The *-ly* suffix is usually for adverbs (words that describe verbs), but there are a few adjectives that end in *-ly*.

- friendly
- costly
- lonely
- daily
- weekly
- monthly
- yearly
- hourly
- early

## Note #3:

Some words are the same as an adjective or an adverb.

- He is a **fast** learner. (*adjective*, describes the noun *learner*)
- She runs **fast**. (*adverb*, describes the verb *runs*)
- She is a **hard** worker. (*adjective*, describes the noun *worker*)
- He studies **hard**. (*adverb*, describes the verb *studies*)

# ADJECTIVES – PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVES

Some adjectives have more than one ending.

Adjectives that describe **how people feel** often end in **-ed** or **-ing**.

| Suffix | Use   | Examples   |
|--------|---|--|
| -ing   | <p>Use <i>-ing</i> if the noun is the <b>reason</b> or the <b>cause</b> of the feeling adjective.</p> <p>In other words, <i>-ing</i> adjectives show <i>why</i> a person is feeling a certain way.</p> <p>These <i>-ing</i> adjectives are commonly used with nouns that are <b>things</b>.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This movie is <b>boring</b>.<br/>(The noun <i>movie</i> is the <i>reason/cause</i> of the feeling of boredom.)</li><li>• I have an <b>exciting</b> life.<br/>(The noun <i>life</i> is the <i>reason/cause</i> of the feeling of excitement.)</li></ul> |
| -ed    | <p>Use <i>-ed</i> to show the <b>result</b> or the <b>effect</b> of the feeling adjective.</p> <p>In other words, <i>-ed</i> adjectives describe <i>how</i> a person is feeling.</p> <p>These <i>-ed</i> adjectives are commonly used with nouns that are <b>people</b>.</p>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She is <b>bored</b>.<br/>(The adjective <i>bored</i> describes how <i>she</i> is feeling.)</li><li>• My friend is <b>excited</b>.<br/>(The adjective <i>excited</i> describes how <i>my friend</i> is feeling.)</li></ul>                              |

# ADJECTIVES

When an adjective consists of more than one word, there are a few simple rules about when to use hyphens (-).

## 1. USE HYPHENS BEFORE NOUNS.

If the multiple-word adjective comes before a noun, use hyphens.

- She gave me an **up-to-date** report.
- We used **computer-generated** images in our presentation.
- After the reading exercise, answer these **follow-up** questions.

This rule is especially common with *time*, *money*, and *distance*. Note that adjectives must never end in “s.”

- We have a **five-minute** break in our morning class. (*NOT five-minutes break*)
- The clerk handed me a **100-dollar** bill.
- I went for a **20-kilometer** run this morning.

What about using adverbs and adjectives together? Be careful. Most adverb/adjective combinations will NOT be hyphenated. One common exception is with the adverb *well*.

- Lady Gaga is a **very famous** singer. (*NOT very-famous singer*)
- The second presenter was a **less interesting** speaker. (*NOT less-interesting*)
- J.R.R. Tolkien is a **well-known** author. (*This is the exception.*)

# ADJECTIVES

When an adjective consists of more than one word, there are a few simple rules about when to use hyphens (-).

## 2. DON'T USE HYPHENS AFTER VERBS.

When the multiple-word adjective (or adjective + noun) comes after the main verb (or *is* the main verb), do NOT use hyphens. Let's take a look at the previous examples:

- Her report was **up to date**.
- The images in our presentation were **computer generated**.
- We **followed up** the reading exercise with comprehension questions.
- Our morning class break is **five minutes**.  
*(Now that we don't need a hyphen, we must follow the normal rules for forming the plural, so we need to use an "s.")*
- The clerk handed me **100 dollars**.
- I ran for **20 kilometers** this morning.
- J.R.R. Tolkien is **well known**.



# ADJECTIVES - ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

| OPINION                                  | SIZE                                 | AGE                                       | SHAPE                              | COLOUR                        | ORIGIN                               | MATERIAL                              | PURPOSE                        |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| What do you think about something?       | How big or small is it?              | How old or young someone or something is? | What is the shape?                 | What color is it?             | Where is it from?                    | What is it made of?                   | What is it used for?           |
| pretty, ugly, silly, smart, easy, fun... | small, tiny, large, enormous, big... | old, young,, new, middle-aged             | square, triangular, flat, round... | red, blue, orange, pinkish... | Chinese, French, Brazilian, western, | paper, plastic, gold, wood, cotton... | racing (car), football (field) |

# ADJECTIVES - ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

**O S A S C O M P**

| OPINION                                  | SIZE                                 | AGE                                       | SHAPE                              | COLOUR                        | ORIGIN                               | MATERIAL                              | PURPOSE                        |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| What do you think about something?       | How big or small is it?              | How old or young someone or something is? | What is the shape?                 | What color is it?             | Where is it from?                    | What is it made of?                   | What is it used for?           |
| pretty, ugly, silly, smart, easy, fun... | small, tiny, large, enormous, big... | old, young,, new, middle-aged             | square, triangular, flat, round... | red, blue, orange, pinkish... | Chinese, French, Brazilian, western, | paper, plastic, gold, wood, cotton... | racing (car), football (field) |



# ADJECTIVES - ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

**O**

**S**

**A**

**S**

**C**

**O**

**M**

**P**

OPINION

SIZE

AGE

SHAPE

COLOUR

ORIGIN

MATERIAL

PURPOSE

# ADJECTIVES - ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

**O S A S C O M P**

# ADJECTIVES – ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

**O S A S C O M P**

**An easier way to remember the order**

Use an **acronym**

**Orange skies and shady clouds over  
my pillow**

**O**pinion   **S**ize   **A**ge   **S**hape   **C**olour   **O**rigin  
**M**aterial   **P**urpose

# ADJECTIVES -ORDER OF ADJECTIVES -TWO SIMPLE RULES



## Adjective Order

**Rule 1:**

**Opinion before fact**

**Rule 2:**

**General before specific**

# ADJECTIVES – EXTRA QUIZZES

## Adjective suffixes (-able, -al, -ant, -ent, -ful, -ible, -ic, -ive, -less, -ous, -y, and sometimes -ly)

- [https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English\\_as\\_a\\_Second\\_Language\\_\(ESL\)/Suffixes/Adjective\\_suffixes\\_vs2991426at](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English_as_a_Second_Language_(ESL)/Suffixes/Adjective_suffixes_vs2991426at)
- <https://www.liveworksheets.com/ml2360797pn>

## Order of Adjectives (Article Number Opinion Size Age Shape Color Origin Material Purpose)

- [https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English\\_as\\_a\\_Second\\_Language\\_\(ESL\)/Order\\_of\\_adjectives/Order\\_of\\_adjectives\\_ld2628610bq](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English_as_a_Second_Language_(ESL)/Order_of_adjectives/Order_of_adjectives_ld2628610bq)
- [https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English\\_as\\_a\\_Second\\_Language\\_\(ESL\)/Order\\_of\\_adjectives/U7-NC1-OrderOfAdjectives\\_yo113782ky](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English_as_a_Second_Language_(ESL)/Order_of_adjectives/U7-NC1-OrderOfAdjectives_yo113782ky)

## Participial Adjectives (-ed To say how people feel / -ing To describe the people or things that cause the feelings)

- <https://www.liveworksheets.com/lo1433115po>
- [https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English\\_as\\_a\\_Second\\_Language\\_\(ESL\)/Adjectives/Adjectives\\_with\\_ed\\_and\\_ing\\_fz1916292ix](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English_as_a_Second_Language_(ESL)/Adjectives/Adjectives_with_ed_and_ing_fz1916292ix)

## Mix of Adjectives (suffixes, order of adjectives, and participial adjectives)

- [https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English\\_language/Grammar/Adjective-suffixes-grammar-drills-grammar-quiz-tests-133688\\_hj2771312go](https://www.liveworksheets.com/worksheets/en/English_language/Grammar/Adjective-suffixes-grammar-drills-grammar-quiz-tests-133688_hj2771312go)