

# Adjectives

## What are Adjectives?

Consider these sentences:

1. There was a **deceptive** stillness before the storm.
2. An **ominous** silence descended on the battlefield.
3. The court discourages **frivolous** law suits.
4. It is my **fervent** wish to see you succeed in life.
5. **Japanese** food is known for its aroma and delicacy.

In these sentences, the coloured words describe or qualify the nouns they precede. For instance, the word '**deceptive**' describes the noun 'stillness', while the word '**Japanese**' describes the noun 'food'. Similarly, They are **happy** to see me doing well.

I am very **worried** about my grandma's health.

Here, the word '**happy**' describes the pronoun 'they', while the word '**worried**' describes the pronoun 'I'. The coloured words in all these sentences are **adjectives**.

Words that are used to describe a noun or a pronoun are called **Adjectives**.

An adjective can be used in two different ways:

1. **Attributively** : The **old** building was razed to the ground.
2. **Predicatively** : The building was **old** and thus razed to the ground.

When the adjective is used before the noun, as an attribute, we call it **Attributive use of adjective**.

When the adjective is used after the verb and forms part of the predicate, it is called **Predicative use of adjective**.

Attributive Use	Predicative Use
1. The <b>terrified</b> girl ran away from the snake.	1. He is <b>clever</b> .
2. Pollution is a <b>pressing</b> problem.	2. They are <b>careless</b> .
3. She threw away the <b>torn</b> sari.	3. The rumour is <b>widespread</b> .
4. The <b>cute</b> baby woke up.	4. The baby is <b>cute</b> .
5. They climb up the <b>steep</b> slope of the mountain.	5. She is <b>pretty</b> .

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## Types of Adjectives?

Adjectives may be divided into the following types:

- |                             |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Proper Adjectives        | 2. Adjectives of Quality    | 3. Adjectives of Quantity  |
| 4. Numeral Adjectives       | 5. Demonstrative Adjectives | 6. Distributive Adjectives |
| 7. Interrogative Adjectives | 8. Possessive Adjectives    |                            |

### 1. Proper Adjectives

A Proper Adjective is formed from a proper noun and is usually capitalized in English.

A **Greek** tragedy  
An **Indian** farmer  
The **Mughal** empire  
The **Sanskrit** language

### 2. Adjectives of Quality

An Adjective of Quality describes the quality of a noun; as,

His father is a **renowned** physician.  
They were engaged in **polite** conversation.  
**Good** students attend to their lessons.  
The pasture is overgrown with **tall** grass.



### 3. Adjectives of Quantity

An Adjective of Quantity describes the quantity or degree of a noun; as,

He doesn't drink **much** coffee.  
He had **enough** money to buy himself a meal.  
He did not eat **any** bread.  
She drinks a **whole** glass of milk every day.

### 4. Numeral Adjectives

A Numeral Adjective is an adjective that describes how many persons or things are meant, or in what order a person or thing stands; as,

I am **twelve** years old.

He has **many** friends.

She was the **second** sportswoman to be chosen for the award. **No** students were present in the library.

### 5. Demonstrative Adjectives

An adjective used to point out a person or a thing we speak about is known as Demonstrative Adjective; as,

**This** book is very interesting.

**That** girl is very talented.

**These** loaves are fresh.

**Those** men are firefighters.



### 6. Distributive Adjectives

A Distributive Adjective is an adjective that refers to members of a group individually; as,

**Every** employee is answerable for this loss.

**Each** guest at the wedding was given a gift.

**Neither** boy broke that windowpane. Take **either** side, whichever you prefer.

### 7. Interrogative Adjectives

An Interrogative Adjective restricts the application of a Noun by asking a question.

**What** excuse do you have now?

**Which** movie should we watch?

**Whose** pet is that?

### 8. Possessive Adjectives

A Possessive Adjective shows ownership or possession; as,

This is **my** resume.

It is **your** privilege.

Is this **her** idea?

That tree is shedding **its** leaves.



# Adjectives

## Comparative and Superlative Degree

1. Most adjectives of one syllable form the comparative and the superlative by adding **-er** and **-est** respectively.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
small	smaller	smallest
tall	taller	tallest
bold	bolder	boldest
kind	kinder	kindest
young	younger	youngest
great	greater	greatest

2. When the Positive ends in **-e**, only **-r** and **-st** are added.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
brave	braver	bravest
fine	finer	finest
large	larger	largest
wise	wiser	wisest

3. When the Positive ends in **-y**, preceded by a consonant, the **y** is changed into **i** before adding **-er** and **-est**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
easy	easier	easiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest

4. When the Positive is a word of one syllable and ends in a single consonant, preceded by a short vowel, this consonant is doubled before adding **-er** and **-est**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
red	redder	reddest
big	bigger	biggest
hot	hotter	hottest

5. Adjectives of more than two syllables form the Comparative and Superlative by putting **more** and **most** before the Positive.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
industrious	more industrious	most industrious
courageous	more courageous	most courageous

6. The following Adjectives are compared irregularly, that is, their Comparative and Superlative are not formed from the Positive.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good, well	better	best
bad, evil, ill	worse	worst
little	less, lesser	least
much	more	most (quantity)
many	more	most (number)
late	later, latter	latest, last
old	older, elder	oldest, eldest
far	farther	farthest

#### Note

The comparative which ends in **-er** is not used when we compare two qualities in the same person or thing. Priya is **more polite** than **emphatic** in dealing with troublemakers (not politer).