

# Adjectives



It's a **cold** day.  
The people are skiing on the **crisp white** snow.



Life can be very **enjoyable** for **retired** people.  
They have a lot of **spare** time and can take up **interesting** hobbies.

- ◆ **Adjectives** describe nouns. They have the same form in the singular and plural. They go before nouns (e.g. a **small** house) but after the verbs **be, look, smell, sound, feel, taste, seem, appear, become, get, stay, etc.** (e.g. She **is beautiful**. They **seem unhappy**.)
- ◆ There are **opinion adjectives** and **fact adjectives**. Opinion adjectives such as **boring, exciting, etc.** show what a person thinks of somebody or something. Fact adjectives such as **tall, thin, new, etc.** give us factual information about age, size, colour, origin, material, etc.
- ◆ There are also compound adjectives which are formed with: a) **present participles** e.g. a **never-ending** journey, b) **past participles** e.g. a **broken-down** washing machine, c) **cardinal numbers + nouns** e.g. a **three-hour** delay (NOT: ~~a three hours delay~~).

- d) **well, badly + past participle**  
e.g. **well-behaved** children, **badly-made** furniture
- ◆ We can also use nouns as adjectives before other nouns. In this case the nouns have no plural form.  
e.g. **morning** paper - **morning** papers, **coffee** table - **coffee** tables
- ◆ The following adjectives have a difference in meaning:
  - a) He gave her a **gold** ring. (= ring made of gold)  
They walked on the **golden** sand. (= sand the colour of gold)
  - b) She bought a **silk** blouse. (= blouse made of silk)  
This new shampoo promises to give you **silky** hair. (= hair which feels like silk)
  - c) They walked up the **stone** path. (= path made of stone)  
The man had a **stony** look on his face. (= cold look - like stone)

## ORDER OF ADJECTIVES

- ◆ When there are two or more adjectives in a sentence, they usually go in the following order:

### Opinion Adjectives

### Fact Adjectives

	size	age	shape	colour	origin	material	used for/be about	noun
It's a <b>fantastic</b>	<i>small</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>round</i>	<i>red</i>	<i>Swiss</i>	<i>plastic</i>	<i>alarm</i>	<i>clock</i>

- ◆ **Ordinal numbers** (first, second, third, etc.) go before **cardinal numbers** (one, two, three, etc.)  
e.g. the **first two** weeks (NOT: ~~the two first weeks~~)
- ◆ The adjectives **afraid, alike, alive, alone, ashamed, asleep, awake, content, glad, ill, pleased, etc.** are not followed by nouns.  
e.g. The man was **alive**. Karen is **ill** today.
- ◆ The adjectives **chief, elder, eldest, former, indoor, inner, main, only, outdoor, outer, principal, upper** are always followed by nouns.  
e.g. This is my **elder** son.
- ◆ We do not usually use a long list of adjectives before a single noun. A noun is usually described by one, two or three adjectives at the most.  
e.g. a **beautiful blue evening** dress
- ◆ Certain adjectives can be used with 'the' as nouns to refer to groups of people in general. These are: **elderly, middle-aged, old, young, blind, deaf, disabled, living, sick, homeless, hungry, poor, rich, strong, unemployed, weak, etc.**  
e.g. **The young** have a lot of energy. (We refer to young people in general.) **but:** **The young people** of our town are organising a charity concert. (We refer to a specific group of young people).  
When we talk about one person we say **A/The young man/woman, A/The blind man/woman, etc.**  
e.g. **The young woman** who lives next door is a medical student.

# Adjectives - Adverbs - Comparisons

**1 Underline the opinion adjectives, circle the fact ones, then put them in order.**

- 1 lace / blue / beautiful / handkerchief  
...a beautiful blue lace handkerchief...
- 2 a(n) stone / ancient / small / cottage  
.....
- 3 a(n) English / huge / wooden / wardrobe  
.....
- 4 a(n) Chinese / amazing / old / story  
.....
- 5 a(n) American / new / exciting / film  
.....
- 6 a pair of / wire / old / reading / glasses  
.....
- 7 a(n) wooden / lovely / old-fashioned / table  
.....
- 8 a(n) white / linen / Irish / tablecloth  
.....
- 9 a chocolate / large / delicious / cake  
.....
- 10 a(n) orange / ugly / velvet / sofa  
.....

**2 Put the adjectives in the correct order.**

Dear Aunt Margaret,

I'm just writing to thank you for the money you sent me last month. It was very generous of you. I've spent it on some lovely things for my new house.

For the living room I bought a lovely pair of **1) ...blue velvet...** (velvet/blue) curtains and for the bedroom I got a(n) **2) .....** (round/large/antique) mirror. While I was shopping I found some **3) .....** (silver/beautiful/tall) candlesticks, which I have put in the dining room. I also bought some **4) .....** (soft/cotton/thick) towels for the bathroom and a **5) .....** (green/square/woollen) rug for the guest room. Finally, I went to an auction where I bought a **6) .....** (oak/fabulous/English) table for the kitchen.

Thank you once again for the gift.  
I hope you'll visit me soon.

Love, Susie

**3 Fill in: the + adjective or the + adjective + people.**

- 1 This charity provides shelter for ...the homeless people... (homeless) of London.
- 2 It is important to look after ..... (elderly), especially in winter.
- 3 Ambulances took ..... (injured) to hospitals in the area.

- 4 ..... (old) in the village are upset about the new road.
- 5 They are changing the building to make it easier for ..... (disabled) to get around.
- 6 ..... (young) in the audience cheered loudly at the end of the concert.
- 7 ..... (poor) of our town receive help from the council.
- 8 Christine is a nurse who looks after ..... (sick).
- 9 ..... (strong) in the group carried the heavy equipment.
- 10 ..... (rich) can afford to live in luxury.

**4 Make compound adjectives to describe the following:**

- 1 A walk that takes ten minutes.  
...A ten-minute walk...
- 2 A story which is written well.  
.....
- 3 A building which has twelve storeys.  
.....
- 4 A train which moves fast.  
.....
- 5 A student who works hard.  
.....
- 6 An office which has good lighting.  
.....
- 7 A holiday which lasts two weeks.  
.....
- 8 A report which has ten pages.  
.....

**5 Underline the correct item.**



While Lizzie was tidying the attic of her grandmother's house, she came across an old **1) wooden/wood** chest. When she looked inside, she found a doll wrapped in **2) silk/silky** paper.

The doll had **3) gold/golden** hair and was wearing a long **4) woollen/wool** coat. She was beautiful and Lizzie had never seen her before. She sat down on the cold **5) stony/stone** floor to examine the doll more carefully. She was wearing a real **6) gold/golden** necklace and, underneath the coat, a **7) silky/silk** dress. The doll had belonged to her grandmother when she was young. Lizzie carefully wrapped her up again and placed her gently back in the box.

# Adverbs



Sprinters run **quickly**. They wake up **early** in the morning and train **hard** all day.

- ◆ Adverbs usually describe verbs, adjectives, other adverbs or sentences.
- ◆ An adverb can be one word (*carefully*) or a phrase (*in the morning*). Adverbs can describe manner (how), place (where), time (when), frequency (how often), degree (to what extent), etc.
  - e.g. a) He drives **carefully**. (How does he drive? *Carefully*. - adverb of manner)
  - b) Your bag is **here**. (Where is it? *Here*. - adverb of place)
  - c) They'll leave **tomorrow**. (When will they leave? *Tomorrow*. - adverb of time)
  - d) He **sometimes** goes fishing at the weekend. (How often does he go fishing? *Sometimes*. - adverb of frequency)
  - e) She is **very** polite. (How polite is she? *Very*. - adverb of degree)

## Formation of Adverbs

- ◆ We usually form an adverb by adding **-ly** to the adjective.
  - e.g. *serious* - *seriously*
- ◆ Adjectives ending in **-le** drop the **-e** and take **-y**.
  - e.g. *gentle* - *gently*
- ◆ Adjectives ending in consonant + **y** drop the **-y** and take **-ily**.
  - e.g. *happy* - *happily*
- ◆ Adjectives ending in **-l** take **-ly**.
  - e.g. *awful* - *awfully*
- ◆ Adjectives ending in **-ic** usually take **-ally**.
  - e.g. *dramatic* - *dramatically* **But:** *public* - *publicly*
- ◆ Adjectives ending in **-e** take **-ly**.
  - e.g. *polite* - *politely* **But:** *true* - *truly*

- ◆ The following words end in **-ly**, but they are adjectives: *elderly, cowardly, friendly, likely, deadly, lively, lonely, silly, ugly, lovely*, etc.
  - e.g. She's a **lively** child.

We use the words **way/manner** to form their adverbs.

e.g. She greeted me **in a friendly way/manner**.  
He complained **in a cowardly way/manner**.

- ◆ The adverbs *loud(ly), cheap(ly), quick(ly), tight(ly), fair(ly)* and *slow(ly)* are often used without **-ly** in everyday English.
  - e.g. Come here **quick/quickly**.

- ◆ Some adverbs have the same form as adjectives. These include: *hard, fast, free, high, low, deep, early, late, long, near, straight, right, wrong*. Also *hourly, daily, weekly, monthly* and *yearly*.
  - e.g. The lake is **deep**. (adjective)  
They went **deep** into the forest. (adverb)  
These biscuits are very **hard**. (adjective)  
He tried **hard** in order to succeed. (adverb)  
'Bella Donna' is a **weekly** magazine. (adjective)  
It comes out **weekly**. (adverb)

- ◆ The adverbs below have two forms, each with a different meaning:

- The treasure was buried **deep** underground. (= a long way down)  
He is **deeply** in love with her. (= very)
- The hotel guests can use the swimming pool **free**. (= without payment)  
The animals in the safari park can roam **freely**. (= without limit or restriction.)
- The kite flew **high** in the sky. (= at/to a high level)  
He is a **highly** respected doctor. (= very much)
- She arrived **late** for the meeting. (= not early)  
He hasn't been feeling well **lately**. (= recently)
- Which of his songs do you like **most**? (= superlative of much)  
I'm **mostly** interested in modern art. (= mainly)
- As he came **near**, I realised that something was wrong. (= close)  
She **nearly** fainted when she heard the news. (= almost)
- He is a **pretty** strange man. (= rather)  
The bridesmaids were **prettily** dressed in pink. (= in a pretty way)
- He is working **hard** these days. (= with a lot of effort)  
They **hardly** go anywhere now that they have children. (= almost never)

**Note:** *Hardly* has a negative meaning and is often used with: *any, anyone, anywhere, anything* and *ever*.

## Adjectives - Adverbs - Comparisons

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For each gap, turn the adjective into an adverb.

Julia was walking 1) *...quickly...* (quick) down the street when she heard someone call her name 2) ..... (loud). She looked 3) ..... (nervous) behind her, but the street was 4) ..... (complete) empty. There was nobody there. 5) ..... (Sudden), she heard her name again. She turned to see her brother running towards her, smiling 6) ..... (cheerful). 'Didn't you hear me?' he laughed 7) ..... (happy). 'Nick!' gasped Julia. 'You 8) ..... (near) frightened me to death!'

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Underline the correct item.

- 1 This is a pretty/prettily complicated situation.
- 2 They had hard/hardly been home for a minute when the phone rang.
- 3 My friends are most/mostly vegetarians.
- 4 Her loose outfit allowed her to move free/freely.
- 5 The shelf was so high/highly that he couldn't reach it.
- 6 John may be late/lately home tonight, as he has a lot of work to do.
- 7 The room was pretty/prettily decorated.
- 8 Children under five years old travel free/freely.
- 9 Sue has near/nearly finished her homework.
- 10 They have been going out a lot late/lately.
- 11 This college is high/highly recommended for its range of courses.
- 12 The miners dug deep/deeply to find coal.
- 13 The new supermarket is very near/nearly our house.
- 14 He is deep/deeply involved in the scandal.
- 15 We found it hard/hardly to get used to living in a foreign country.
- 16 Which of Mel Gibson's films do you like most/mostly?

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Underline the correct item.

It was Lucy's birthday and she was very 1) sad/sadly. She had been waiting 2) hopeful/hopefully all morning for the postman to arrive. 3) Sudden/Suddenly, the letterbox rattled 4) gentle/gently and an envelope fell 5) soft/softly onto the doormat. Picking it up, Lucy noticed 6) miserable/miserably that it was a bill. There were no cards, no presents and no 7) pretty/prettily bouquets of flowers. Lucy 8) near/nearly burst into tears. Just then, there was a 9) loud/ loudly knock on the door. Opening the door 10) slow/ slowly, Lucy saw all her friends holding 11) brightly/bright wrapped gifts and shouting 'Happy Birthday'. Lucy 12) immediate/immediately cheered up and greeted her friends 13) warm/warmly.

## ORDER OF ADVERBS

- ◆ Adverbs usually go after verbs but before adjectives, other adverbs and participles.

e.g. *He speaks softly.*

*She is amazingly beautiful.*

*He drove very fast.*

*Computers are extensively used nowadays.*

- ◆ Adverbs of **manner** go before the main verb, after the auxiliary verb or at the end of the sentence.

e.g. *She easily passed the exam.*

*We are eagerly waiting for his letter.*

*He acted foolishly.*

- ◆ Adverbs of **degree** (*absolutely, completely, totally, extremely, very, quite, rather, etc.*) go before an adjective, an adverb or a main verb, but after an auxiliary verb.

e.g. *This is totally unacceptable.*

*They arrived rather early.*

*We absolutely love her sense of humour.*

*I don't quite understand what you mean.*

- ◆ Adverbs of **frequency** go after auxiliary verbs and the verb **to be**, but before main verbs.

e.g. *He is always ready to help.*

*Sam often complains about his salary.*

- ◆ Adverbs of **place** and **time** usually go at the end of the sentence.

e.g. *There is a café nearby.*

*I'll meet you tomorrow.*

Some one-syllable adverbs of time such as **soon, now** and **then**, go before the main verb, but after the auxiliary verb or the verb **to be**.

e.g. *She then told him what had happened.*

*He will soon inform us about his decision.*

- ◆ We can put an adverb at the beginning of a sentence if we want to emphasise it.

e.g. *Slowly, he closed the door behind him. (manner)*

*In the living room, there is an antique grandfather clock. (place)*

*Yesterday, I met the President. (time)*

- ◆ When there are two or more adverbs in the same sentence, they usually come in the following order: **manner – place – time**.

e.g. *The baby slept quietly in his cot all night long.*

If there is a verb of movement, such as **go, come, leave** in the sentence, then the adverbs come in the following order: **place – manner – time**.

e.g. *He came to work by bus this morning.*