

Making Descriptions

Adjectives describe nouns and are usually placed before the nouns they describe:

This is **good** food.

He's a **nice** man.

She has an **expensive** car.

I got **cheap** tickets.

A form of the verb *be* can separate an adjective from the noun (or pronoun) it describes:

The food is **good**.

That man is **nice**.

Her car is **expensive**.

The tickets were **cheap**.

Two adjectives can be connected by the word *and*:

Her car is **big** and **expensive**.

The man is **smart** and **nice**.

A comma is used to separate adjectives when there are more than two:

Her car is **big**, **comfortable**, and **expensive**.

The man is **smart**, **nice**, and **handsome**.

Adjectives That Describe People

Adjectives describe a person's physical and personal characteristics. They answer the questions, "What are you like?" "What is she like?" "What is he like?" and "What are they like?" Review the words in the following list:

able	good	responsible
aggressive	handsome	rich
beautiful	interesting	silly
big	large	smart
brave	lazy	strict
charming	mean	sweet
fast	nice	tall
fat	old	unhappy
friendly	pretty	weak
funny	proud	
generous	quiet	

exercise**8-1**

Fill in each blank with one or several words from the list.

1. I am _____.
2. My neighbors are _____.
3. A friend of mine is _____.
4. I don't know anyone who is _____.
5. Most of the people I see every day are _____.

Antonyms

Antonyms are two words with opposite meanings. The adjectives in the following exercises are antonyms of the adjectives in the previous list, but not in the same order.

exercise**8-2**

Fill in the antonym for each adjective using the list provided.

cowardly handicapped little shy slow stingy thin ugly unfriendly

1. able _____
2. aggressive _____
3. big _____
4. brave _____
5. beautiful _____
6. fast _____

7. fat _____
8. friendly _____
9. generous _____

exercise**8-3**

Fill in the antonym for each adjective using the list provided.

bad boring energetic humble kind noisy plain small young

1. good _____
2. interesting _____
3. large _____
4. lazy _____
5. mean _____
6. old _____
7. pretty _____
8. proud _____
9. quiet _____

exercise**8-4**

Fill in the antonym for each adjective using the list provided.

bitter dumb easygoing happy poor serious short strong

1. rich _____
2. silly _____
3. smart _____
4. strict _____
5. sweet _____
6. tall _____
7. unhappy _____
8. weak _____

Prefixes

Many antonyms can be formed by adding a *prefix* to an adjective. The prefixes *in-*, *im-*, *ir-*, and *un-* all mean “not.”

exercise

8-5

Fill in the antonym for each adjective using the prefixes indicated.

in-

EXAMPLE: active

inactive

1. capable
2. competent
3. considerate
4. efficient
5. secure
6. sincere
7. tolerant

im-

EXAMPLE: mature

immature

8. modest
9. patient
10. polite
11. proper

ir-

EXAMPLE: responsible

irresponsible

12. resistible
13. reverent

un-

EXAMPLE: friendly

unfriendly

14. balanced
15. civil

16. civilized _____
17. disciplined _____
18. enthusiastic _____
19. faithful _____
20. fortunate _____
21. happy _____
22. healthy _____
23. kind _____
24. natural _____
25. pleasant _____
26. popular _____
27. reasonable _____
28. selfish _____
29. successful _____
30. tidy _____
31. trustworthy _____
32. truthful _____

Suffixes

Some adjectives are formed by adding a *suffix* to a noun:

-ful

care	careful
cheer	cheerful
harm	harmful
skill	skillful
tact	tactful
success	successful
truth	truthful

Some (but not all) adjectives that end in *-ful* have antonyms that end in *-less*:

careful	careless
harmful	harmless
tactful	tactless

exercise

8-6

Write in the antonyms for the adjectives indicated. (Be careful—some of these are tricky!)

EXAMPLE: beautiful

ugly

1. careful _____
2. faithful _____
3. harmful _____
4. successful _____
5. tactful _____
6. truthful _____

The following are also adjective suffixes: *-ent*, *-able*, *-ible*, *-ic*, *-ly*, and *-ive*. Review the adjectives in the following chart:

<i>-ent</i>	<i>-able</i>	<i>-ible</i>	<i>-ic</i>	<i>-ly</i>	<i>-ive</i>
independent	adorable	flexible	athletic	cowardly	aggressive
insistent	hospitable	gullible	idealistic	friendly	appreciative
intelligent	likable	responsible	materialistic	lively	creative
persistent			optimistic	lonely	imaginative
			pessimistic	lovely	manipulative
					persuasive

exercise

8-7

Fill in each blank with the best word from the prefix group indicated.

-ent

1. A person who is smart is _____.
2. Someone who *persists* doesn't stop trying; that person is _____.
3. Someone who succeeds alone, who doesn't *depend* on help from others, is _____.
4. People who demand action, or *insist* on it, are _____.

-able/-ible

5. People who welcome you to their home are _____.
6. A person who is pleasant, kind, helpful, and friendly is _____.

7. Someone who does his work well and on time is _____.
8. Babies are cute; when they smile they are _____.
9. A person who believes ridiculous stories is _____.
10. People who can adapt to others' needs are _____.
- ic
11. People who expect a good future are _____.
12. People who expect a bad future are _____.
13. A person who is good at sports, such as tennis or football, is _____.
14. Someone who needs to own expensive things is _____.
15. A person who believes the future will be almost perfect is _____.
- ly
16. A person who has a beautiful personality is _____.
17. Someone who has a lot of energy and enthusiasm is _____.
18. People who are afraid to act are _____.
19. A person who likes to talk to and help others is _____.
20. A person who has no friends is probably _____.
- ive
21. *Creative* people have new ideas; they are _____.
22. A person who likes to control the actions of others is _____.
23. A person who gets other people to form an opinion is _____.
24. People who demand to be first are _____.
25. A person who is thankful is _____.

Using Adjectives with Other Words

A/an, the, this, that, these, those, my, your, his, her, our, and their are *determiners*. An adjective goes between the determiner and the noun it describes:

the irresponsible student
those aggressive lawyers
my adorable friend
our athletic neighbor

The word *a* goes before an adjective that begins with a consonant sound; *an* goes before an adjective that begins with a vowel sound:

a creative child
an independent woman

exercise

8-8

Write *a* or *an* in the blank before each adjective.

1. He is _____ good friend.
2. She is _____ interesting girl.
3. My coworker is _____ optimistic person.
4. Her doctor is _____ capable surgeon.
5. That politician is _____ aggressive leader.

exercise

8-9

Use at least ten adjectives from this unit to describe yourself and other people you know. Be sure to write complete sentences.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Proper Adjectives

Proper adjectives describe people or things by their place of origin or group association. Proper adjectives are written with a capital letter:

African	European
African-American	Jewish
Asian	Mexican
Australian	Muslim
Buddhist	Native American
Canadian	North American
Caribbean	Japanese
Central American	South American
Christian	Western

exercise

8-10

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate proper adjectives.

1. Most of the people who live in my neighborhood are _____.
2. I work with a lot of _____ people.
3. I know only a few _____ people.
4. _____ music is my favorite.
5. _____ food is delicious.

Adjectives That Describe a Person's Condition

Adjectives describe a person's condition. They answer the questions, "How are you?" "How is she?" "How is he?" and "How are they?" Review the words in the following list:

busy	happy	so-so
calm	hungry	thirsty
cold	lost	tired
confused	nervous	upset
dead	ready	warm
dirty	satisfied	worried
fine	scared	
glad	sick	

exercise

8-11

Circle the word that best fills in each blank.

- I had to eat something because I was so _____.
worried hungry thirsty calm
- I didn't call you because I knew you were _____.
busy so-so dead glad
- We are leaving at 6:00 tomorrow morning. Please be _____.
worried scared lost ready
- If you are _____, get a drink from the refrigerator.
satisfied confused thirsty dirty
- We're sorry you are _____ and hope you feel better soon.
happy upset glad fine
- If you are too _____, put on a sweater.
cold warm tired nervous

Antonyms

Review the adjectives in the following list:

alive
anxious/upset/nervous
clean
cool
dissatisfied
full
hot
rested
sad/depressed
well

exercise

8-12

Find in the previous list the antonym for each of the following adjectives.

1. calm _____
2. cold _____
3. dead _____
4. dirty _____
5. happy _____
6. hungry _____
7. satisfied _____
8. sick _____
9. tired _____
10. warm _____

The conjunction *but* between adjectives indicates contrast:

I'm **fine** but **tired**.
She is **sick** but **comfortable**.
They are **hungry** but **happy**.
We're **nervous** but **ready**.

exercise

8-13

Answer each question in complete sentences, using at least ten different adjectives. Connect two adjectives with *and* or *but*. Use commas when you have more than two adjectives together.

1. How are you today? _____

2. How is your best friend? _____

3. How is everyone in your family? _____

Adjectives That Describe Objects

Size

Review the following adjectives that describe things by their size:

little/small	medium-sized	big/large
tiny	average-sized	huge/enormous
narrow	of medium width	wide
short	of medium length	long
light	of medium weight	heavy

exercise

8-14

Write the antonyms for the following.

- wide _____
- little _____
- heavy _____
- enormous _____
- long _____

exercise

8-15

Describe by size five objects that you see right now. Be sure to write in complete sentences.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Shape

Review the following adjectives that describe things by their shape:

diamond-shaped
 rectangular
 round
 square
 triangular

exercise

8-16

Answer each question in a complete sentence.

1. What do you see that is round?

2. What do you have that is square?

3. What traffic sign is triangular?

4. What is the shape of this book?

5. What is the shape of a baseball field?

Color

Review the following adjectives that describe things by their color:

black	green	pink	yellow
blue	gray	purple	white
brown	orange	red	

A color mixed with white is called "light": light blue, light green. A color mixed with black is called "dark": dark red, dark purple. Fashion colors are often named after flowers, fruit, or other natural items: rose, lilac, turquoise, tomato, avocado, chocolate, bark.

exercise

8-17

Describe five things you see by their color. Use complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Quality

Review the following adjectives that describe things by their quality:

acceptable	inefficient
cheap	inferior
comfortable	shoddy
convenient	special
cozy	sturdy
delicious	superior
effective	terrible
efficient	unacceptable
excellent	uncomfortable
expensive	unimportant
favorite	useful
inconvenient	useless
inedible	well-made
ineffective	wobbly

exercise**8-18**

Match the adjectives in the left column with their antonyms in the right column.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| _____ 1. acceptable | a. expensive |
| _____ 2. cheap | b. inconvenient |
| _____ 3. comfortable | c. inedible |
| _____ 4. convenient | d. ineffective |
| _____ 5. delicious | e. inferior |
| _____ 6. effective | f. shoddy |
| _____ 7. excellent | g. terrible |
| _____ 8. special | h. unacceptable |
| _____ 9. sturdy | i. uncomfortable |
| _____ 10. superior | j. unimportant |
| _____ 11. useful | k. useless |
| _____ 12. well-made | l. wobbly |

Condition

Review the following adjectives that describe things by their condition:

broken	neat
clean	new
dirty	old
dusty	patched
empty	ragged
fixed	ruined
fresh	spoiled/rotten
full	tidy
like-new	torn
messy	worn

exercise**8-19**

Write the antonym to each of the following adjectives.

1. full _____
2. old _____
3. torn _____
4. neat _____
5. clean _____
6. fixed _____
7. rotten _____

exercise**8-20**

Describe the condition of five things you have.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Adjectives That Describe Places

Review the following adjectives that describe places:

airy	light
badly designed	modern
badly located	old-fashioned
cheap	open
cramped	private
crowded	rundown
damp	safe
dangerous	spacious
dark	unfurnished
dry	well-built
empty	well-designed
expensive	well-located
furnished	well-maintained

exercise

8-21

Find the antonyms to the following adjectives in the previous list, and write them in the blanks:

- cheap _____
- cramped _____
- crowded _____
- damp _____
- dangerous _____
- dark _____
- furnished _____
- rundown _____
- private _____
- modern _____

exercise

8-22

Use at least ten adjectives from the previous list to describe the place you are in right now.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Adjectives That Describe the Weather

Review the adjectives in the following list:

breezy	humid
chilly	icy
clear	nice
cloudy	pleasant
cold	rainy
cool	stormy
dry	sunny
foggy	unpleasant
freezing	warm
hot	windy

exercise

8-23

Complete the following chart by listing the adjectives that describe pleasant weather and those that describe unpleasant weather.

Pleasant Weather

Unpleasant Weather

exercise

8-24

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the previous list.

1. I don't like to go out on a(n) _____ day.
2. In January the weather is often _____.
3. In May it is usually _____ where I live.
4. Today where I live it is _____.
5. People often go swimming when it is _____.
6. It is dangerous to drive when it is _____.
7. It's good to have an umbrella on a _____ day.
8. It's a good idea to wear a hat when it is _____.
9. A hat can blow off if it is _____.
10. You need a light jacket when it is _____.