

FUMC ESL High Intermediate/Advanced Online Lesson 6-4-2020

Using Adjectives:

Adjectives describe nouns: a **little** dog, a **clean** house, a **nice** neighbor, a **good** friend, a **blue** dress, a **good** recipe

You never add an “s” to an adjective even if you use it with a plural noun:

brown cows, **soft** pillows, **clean** sheets, **big** snowflakes, **pretty** ribbons, **expensive** cars

Adjectives can be **before the noun**: He was a handsome man. OR **after the verb**: The man was handsome.

Put the adjectives in parenthesis into the sentence in the correct spot.

1. (right) He used his hand to open the window.
2. (cold) This was a winter.
3. (red) I want the balloons.
4. (bright) Look at the light in the sky.
5. (pretty) Janet is a woman
6. (Mexican) The flag is flying over the building.

The sentences above all use the TO BE verb. We can also use adjectives after linking verbs like LOOK, FEEL, APPEAR, and SEEM. Read the sentence and tell which word is the verb and which is the adjective. These verbs are NOT action verbs. They are linking verbs

that link the subject with the adjective. **Students, take turn reading the examples.**

1. It seems hot in this building.
2. It looks rainy outside.
3. She appears tired.
4. I feel sick.
5. These apples feel soft.
6. That fruit looks rotten.
7. Something smells funny.
8. That sounded loud.
9. This cookie tastes wonderful
10. These papers seem important.

If the verb is an action verb, it is usually followed by an adverb not an adjective. **Read these examples. Tell which word is the verb. Then tell whether there is an adjective or an adverb after the verb.**

1. We walked quickly across the bridge.

2. They were quick walkers.
3. She smiled nervously.
4. She felt nervous.
5. The dog seems friendly.
6. The children sang beautifully.
7. The children are beautiful.
8. That dog is angry.
9. He growled angrily.
10. That box looks heavy.
11. That dog looks hungry.
12. The dog ate hungrily.

Things to watch out for:

Fast is an adjective, but can also be an adverb. EX: That boy is fast.

That boy runs fast. In the first sentence, "fast" is an adjective. In the second, "fast" is an adverb. An adverb

describes the action. So in "The boy runs fast." Fast is telling HOW the boy runs. In the first sentence, "fast" is describing the boy.

Good and Well. Many native speakers can't get this one correct. Good is an adjective and describes nouns. EX: He is a good boy. I hope we have good weather. This hamburger is good. Well is an adverb and tells something about the action verb. EX: This car runs well. I did well on my exam. Your son plays piano well.

Read these two sentences.

Are you having a good day? Yes, my day is going well. Good describes the day. Well tells how it is going.

English always has **exceptions**. When we are talking about a person's health, well can be used as an adjective. EX: I don't feel well. She didn't look well last night. Many native English speakers will substitute "good" for well in these sentences. Though, technically incorrect, it is commonly used.

However, if you are talking about behavior, you would use "good" not well. I felt good about helping Mother. This is correct. You would not say, "I felt well about helping mother."

So far we have seen sentences with only one adjective. But what if a sentence has several adjectives. EX: The large, brown dog wore a black and white sweater.

Adjectives must appear in a certain order. We say, "a large, brown dog", not a "brown, large dog". We say, "small, white two-story house" not "white, two-story, small house."

How do you know what order to use? There are rules. Here is the order adjectives must be used in.

1. Quantity or number
2. Quality or opinion
3. Size
4. Age
5. Shape
6. Color
7. Nationality
8. Material

EX: several, three, forty, many

EX: beautiful, amazing, lovely, smelly, thick, rough EX: large, small, tiny, huge

EX: old, new, ancient, young

EX: square, round, heart-shaped, circular

EX: red, black, gold

EX: Chinese, American, Mexican

EX: wooden, metal, leather, silk

The adjectives in these sentences are in the incorrect order. Correct them.

1. The couple has beautiful, three, little girls.
2. The postman delivered a square, grey, big box.
3. My husband bought a pair of leather, shiny, black shoes.
4. They live in a white, two story, large house.
5. We found a porcelain, Chinese, old vase.
6. I discovered tiny, many, old, beautiful cups at the flea market.
7. There were round, red, twenty balls inside the vase.
8. The smelly, black, small dog looked at me with sad, brown, big eyes.
9. I want to buy a Persian, small, colorful rug while I am in Iran.

10. I am selling a wooden, white, large table at the flea market.

11. I bought some French, slim, new trousers for my husband.

12. My husband received a little, cute, eight-week old, golden retriever.

13. At college, I always wore a red and white, big, cowboy hat.

14. Grandma's wool, old, ugly sweater hung from the hook.

Notice the **punctuation**. You put a comma between adjectives, but not between the last adjective and noun.

When there are two or more adjectives from the same group, you separate them with AND.

EX: We found a black and white dog on our porch. That dog is large and dangerous. My friend is wearing a black, white and red shirt.

We don't use AND if the two adjectives are of different categories. EX: They live in a large, white house. NOT: We live in a large and white house.

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Adjectives have different forms. If you compare two things you use the "comparative" form. It was **cold** last night, but it was even **colder** the night before. If you compare three things you use the "superlative" form. This May was **warmer** than last May. But the May of 1988 was the **warmest** May on record. Not all adjectives have a comparative or superlative form. In that case you use "more" if you compare two things and "most" if you compare more than two. EX: She is the **more beautiful** of the two sisters. But the mother is the **most beautiful** of all the women in the family.

Some adjectives use completely different words: EX-good, better, best OR bad, worse, worst OR little, less, least OR much, more, most.

Put the correct form of the adjective in parenthesis in the sentence.

1. (pretty) Do you think Beth is _____ than Elizabeth?
2. (dangerous) Skydiving is the _____ sport of all.
3. (bad) This is the _____ day of my life.
4. (long) Non-smokers usually live _____ than people who smoke.
5. (expensive) The 24 karat gold watch is the _____ watch we carry at the store.
6. (interesting) This book is the _____ book I've ever read.
7. (little) I know _____ about physics than Jan does. You should ask her.
8. (slow) You must drive _____ when there are children playing in the street.
9. (good) The more you study, the _____ you will do on the exam.

10. (merry) Of course you can come to my party. The more the _____.

11. (big - safe). He has the _____ dogs on the block. He thinks the _____ the dog, the _____ the house.

12. (much) Is there much rain forecast? There is _____ than was forecast yesterday. But the _____ rain is forecast for this weekend.

Idioms: There are many idioms made by using two adjectives, nouns or verbs separated by AND. EX: safe and sound, fair and square, spick and span, short and sweet. These adjectives CANNOT be reversed. You can't say, "We arrived sound and safe." or "The kitchen is "span and spick". The adjectives must stay in the same order.

Read these short conversations with a partner. Tell the meaning of the underlined idioms. Explain in your own words what is happening in the conversation.

Ann: I am sick and tired of this dirty kitchen. I can't stand to look at it any more.

Cindy: We can clean it up. I will help. We will work on it all morning. When we finish it will be spick and span.

Jan: Tell me what happened at the meeting.

Bella: I will tell you, but I don't have much time, so I will keep it short and sweet.

Mom: Stop arguing! You are going round and round on the same subject. I am sick and tired of all the fighting. I just need some peace and quiet.

Beth: But Mom, it's Tom's fault. He is always ranting and raving about

how long I am in the bathroom. I have to put on make-up. It takes girls longer to get ready.

Mom: Both of you need to forgive and forget. Please try to be nice to each other.

Paula: You ran out of the building, jumped into your car and drove off. You left me standing on the sidewalk high and dry.

Megan: But the building was on fire. I had to get out of there. I saw you standing on the sidewalk. I knew you were safe and sound.

Paula: That's all well and good, Megan. Yes, I was alive and kicking, but I had a big cut on my leg and couldn't walk. I needed someone to give me a ride home. You were thoughtless not to see if I needed a ride. I would never have driven off and left you behind. You didn't treat me fair and square.

Megan: I'm sorry, Paula. Do you hate me now.

Paula: No, I don't hate you. You're my sister. I love you warts and all.

Jim: I don't seem to have the vim and vigor I had in my younger days. I get tired so easily now. **Ella:** Let's face it honey, we're old. Our bodies have survived lots of wear and tear.

My friend Ed was a salesman for years. He would show up at a customer's office with his dog and pony show and try to close the deal. He did it week after week. But he finally got tired of all the wheeling and dealing. He quit his job. Unfortunately now, he's down and out. I saw him begging on the street corner.