

Unit 5: Adjectives and Adverbs

Lesson 31

Adjectives

An **adjective** modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun. An adjective provides information about the size, shape, color, texture, feeling, sound, smell, number, or condition of a noun or a pronoun.

Brown wrens sometimes build nests above **front** doors.

Most adjectives come before the words they modify. A **predicate adjective** follows a linking verb and modifies the noun or pronoun that is the subject of the sentence.

The clerks in this store are **polite** and **friendly**.

The present participle and past participle forms of verbs may be used as adjectives and predicate adjectives.

A **barking** dog kept me awake all night. (present participle)

The crowd was **excited**. (past participle)

► **Exercise 1** Underline each adjective. Draw an arrow to the noun or pronoun it modifies.

Common ants are fascinating insects.

1. Ants are social insects that live in organized colonies.
2. Female ants are either queen ants or worker ants.
3. Male ants mate with young queens and live very short lives.
4. Queens live several years and lay numerous broods of eggs.
5. Ants are also extremely strong and energetic.
6. They are industrious and build structured nests.
7. To do this, they use two sets of powerful jaws that allow them to chew, to dig, and to carry large objects.

Lesson 32**Articles and Proper Adjectives**

The words *a*, *an*, and *the* make up a special group of adjectives called **articles**. *A* and *an* are called **indefinite articles** because they refer to one of a general group of people, places, things, or ideas. Use *a* before words beginning with a consonant sound, and use *an* before words beginning with a vowel sound.

a film **a** bicycle **a** union **an** omelet **an** honor

The is called a **definite article** because it identifies specific people, places, things, or ideas.

The river had flooded **the** nearby fields.

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank the indefinite article that comes before each word or words.

 an invigorating hike

_____ 1. arch

_____ 11. vast empire

_____ 2. scientific experiment

_____ 12. honest mistake

_____ 3. infection

_____ 13. emotional response

_____ 4. world atlas

_____ 14. herd of goats

_____ 5. art exhibit

_____ 15. individual

_____ 6. underground passage

_____ 16. hour-long film

_____ 7. inside pitch

_____ 17. X ray

_____ 8. ball of yarn

_____ 18. application form

_____ 9. avid fan

_____ 19. egg yolk

_____ 10. clever invention

_____ 20. university

A **proper adjective** is formed from a proper noun and always begins with a capital letter. In some cases a proper noun keeps the same form when used as a proper adjective.

April is my favorite month. I enjoy **April** showers.

In other cases, as with names of places, the proper adjective often adds one of the endings listed below. For those not listed, you may need to consult a dictionary.

ENDING	PROPER ADJECTIVE
-an	American, Texan, German, Tibetan, Mexican, Ohioan, Guatemalan, Moroccan, Alaskan, African, Minnesotan
-ese	Chinese, Japanese, Sudanese, Taiwanese, Portuguese, Lebanese
-ian	Canadian, Italian, Brazilian, Californian, Russian, Asian, Australian, Nigerian, Arabian, Egyptian, Austrian, Indian, Bolivian, Floridian
-ish	Spanish, Irish, Turkish, English, Polish

► **Exercise 2** Rewrite each group of words by changing the proper noun to a proper adjective. Change the article if necessary.

a suit from Italy an Italian suit

1. a skier from Austria _____
2. a heat wave in August _____
3. the flag of Lebanon _____
4. a tour of Alaska _____
5. a river in Asia _____
6. the ambassador from Turkey _____
7. a poem from Japan _____
8. a birthday in November _____
9. a writer from Mexico _____
10. a rug from Egypt _____
11. a painting from China _____
12. the visitor from Morocco _____
13. a meeting on Monday _____
14. a monk from Tibet _____
15. a student from Taiwan _____

Lesson 33**Comparative and Superlative Adjectives**

The **comparative** form of an adjective compares two things or people. The **superlative** form of an adjective compares more than two things or people. For most adjectives of one syllable and some of two syllables, *-er* and *-est* are added to form the comparative and superlative.

Comparative: Brazil is **bigger** than Venezuela.

Superlative: Brazil is the **biggest** country in South America.

For most adjectives of two or more syllables, the comparative or superlative is formed by adding *more* or *most* before the adjective. Never use *more* or *most* with adjectives that already end with *-er* or *-est*.

Comparative: Marco is **more adventurous** than Kuan.

Superlative: Pete is the **most adventurous** of all.

Some adjectives have irregular comparative forms.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
good, well	better	best
bad	worse	worst
many, much	more	most
little (amount)	less	least
little (size)	littler	littlest

► **Exercise 1** Write **C** in the blank if the sentence is correct and **I** if the sentence is incorrect.

- I The bestest vacation Sandra ever took was a trip to Wyoming.
1. She visited Yellowstone National Park, the most old national park in the world.
2. It is also the largest park in the United States.
3. Of all the U.S. parks, Yellowstone has the most extensive wildlife preserve.
4. The park has much natural wonders that are amazing to behold.
5. Among the park's better attractions are huge canyons, cascading waterfalls, and clear blue lakes.
6. There are most geysers and hot springs than any other place in the world.
7. Geysers are one of nature's most interesting phenomena.
8. Geysers make a most spectacular display as they roar high above the ground.

Lesson 34**Demonstratives**

Demonstrative adjectives point out something and describe nouns by answering the question *which one?* or *which ones?* The words *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* are demonstrative adjectives when they describe nouns. *This* and *that* describe singular nouns. *These* and *those* describe plural nouns.

This, *that*, *these*, and *those* can also be used as **demonstrative pronouns**. They are pronouns when they take the place of nouns.

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

This book is exciting.

I enjoy **these** types of stories.

That plot is convincing.

She writes **those** kinds of books.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

This is an exciting book.

I enjoy **these**.

That is a realistic setting.

Our class liked reading **those**.

► **Exercise 1** Underline the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

Did Bella find (that, those) missing shoes?

1. (This, These) window needs to be repaired.
2. (Those, That) man must be over seven feet tall!
3. Did Ashley say she was bringing (this, those) kinds of cookies?
4. I believe (these, this) is what you're looking for.
5. Would you please see that Serafina gets (those, that) reports?
6. I think (these, this) plan of yours is quite practical.
7. (Those, These) animals over there are llamas.
8. Not just anyone can do (this, these) job, you know.
9. Does everyone in the class wear (that, those) kinds of shoes?
10. You often see (this, these) kind of movie during the holiday season.
11. The Computer Club adviser said that (these, this) keyboards were easier to use than the old ones.
12. (That, This) pass was way over his head!
13. How about (them, those) '49ers!

Lesson 35

Adverbs

An **adverb** modifies, or describes, a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. When modifying an adjective or another adverb, an adverb usually comes before the word. When modifying a verb, an adverb can occupy different positions in the sentence.

The woman walked **slowly**. (modifies a verb)

Extremely cold weather can be dangerous. (modifies an adjective)

It snows **very** often in November. (modifies another adverb)

An adverb may tell *when*, *where*, or *how* about a verb. It may also tell to *what extent* a quality exists. This kind of adverb is called an **intensifier**. *Very*, *too*, *rather*, *quite*, and *almost* are intensifiers.

Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to adjectives. However, not all words that end in *-ly* are adverbs. The words *kindly*, *friendly*, *lively*, and *lonely* are usually adjectives. Similarly, not all adverbs end in *-ly*. Some that do not are *afterward*, *sometimes*, *later*, *often*, *soon*, *here*, *there*, *everywhere*, *fast*, *hard*, *long*, *slow*, and *straight*.

► **Exercise 1** Draw an arrow from each adverb to the word it modifies. In the blank, write *V* if the adverb modifies a verb, *adj.* if it modifies an adjective, or *adv.* if it modifies another adverb. A sentence may have more than one adverb.

V, adj. Lena and Trent thoroughly enjoyed the truly vigorous hike.

- _____ 1. When hiking in the American West, you must proceed carefully.
- _____ 2. People walking in rocky areas sometimes come across rattlesnakes.
- _____ 3. Some people are quite afraid of snakes.
- _____ 4. If not provoked, rattlesnakes are not very dangerous.
- _____ 5. All rattlesnakes are poisonous, but they bite people relatively rarely.
- _____ 6. People often find rattlesnakes in dry, rocky areas.
- _____ 7. They are particularly numerous in the Southwest.
- _____ 8. However, they also exist in the eastern part of the country.

Lesson 36

Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

The **comparative** form of an adverb compares two actions. The **superlative** form of an adverb compares more than two actions. Long adverbs and adverbs ending in *-ly* require the use of *more* or *most*. Shorter adverbs need *-er* or *-est* as an ending.

Comparative: She records the experiment **more accurately** than he does.
Alicia studied **harder** than Rex did.

Superlative: She recorded the experiment **most accurately** of all the students.
Alicia studied **hardest** of all.

Some important adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

ADVERB	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
well	better	best
badly	worse	worst
little (amount)	less	least

The words *less* and *least* are used before both short and long adverbs to form the negative comparative and negative superlative.

Jarrett sings **less well**. Amie sings **least rhythmically** of all.

► Exercise 1 Fill in each blank with the correct form of the adverb.

ADVERB	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
swiftly	<u>more swiftly</u>	<u>most swiftly</u>
1. easily	_____	_____
2. _____	more rapidly	_____
3. _____	farther	_____
4. _____	_____	best
5. _____	_____	most dangerously
6. fast	_____	_____
7. neatly	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	most happily