

Adjectives

Introduction to Adjectives

An adjective is **a word that describes a noun or a pronoun**.

For example:

The **quick** cat caught the mouse.

(The word 'quick' is an adjective. It is describing the noun 'cat'. It is telling us *of what kind* the noun is.)

She is **intelligent**.

(The word 'intelligent' is an adjective. It is describing the pronoun 'she'. It is telling us *of what kind* the pronoun is.)

Sometimes **a phrase can perform the role of an adjective** in a sentence.

For example:

The cupboard is **full of clothes**.

(Here, the phrase 'full of clothes' is describing the noun 'the cupboard'. It is telling us *of what kind* the noun is. Hence, the phrase is working as an adjective in this sentence.)

Sometimes **a clause can perform the role of an adjective** in a sentence.

For example:

Roshan Singh, **who had last played a test match in 2003**, is playing in today's match against Australia.

(Here, the clause 'who had last played a test match in 2003' is describing the noun 'Roshan Singh'. It is telling us *which* noun is being talked about. Hence, the clause is working as an adjective in this sentence.)

Adjectives of Quality, Quantity and Number

Adjectives of Quality

These adjectives **answer the question 'of what kind?'**

Geeta is a **good** girl.

(Ask the question '*what kind of girl?*' and you get the answer 'good'.)

Rishabh is **hard working**.

(Ask the question 'Rishabh is *of what kind?*' and you get the answer 'hard working'.)

Indian tea is famous all over the world.

(Ask the question '*what kind of tea?*' and you get the answer 'Indian'.)

He is a **gifted** cricketer.

(Ask the question '*what kind of cricketer?*' and you get the answer 'gifted'.)

Adjectives of Quantity

These adjectives **answer the question 'how much?'**

Our neighbour is asking for **some** sugar.

(Ask the question '*how much* sugar?' and you get the answer 'some'.)

I don't have **much** time to answer that last question.

(Ask the question '*how much* time?' and you get the answer '[not] much'.)

You have given a **sufficient** explanation.

(Ask the question '*how much* explanation?' and you get the answer 'sufficient'.)

She has **little** sense of what is going on.

(Ask the question '*how much* sense?' and you get the answer 'little'.)

You can take **all** the jewellery.

(Ask the question '*how much* jewellery?' and you get the answer 'all'.)

[Note: *The nouns described by these adjectives are usually uncountable nouns.*]

Adjectives of Number

These adjectives **answer the question 'how many?' or 'in what order?'**

I have **eleven** fingers.

(Ask the question '*how many* fingers?' and you get the answer 'eleven'.)

All the students passed the exam.

(Ask the question '*how many* students?' and you get the answer 'all'.)

Each student has to sign the form.

(Ask the question '*how many students?*' and you get the answer 'each'.)

Every person in the auditorium was standing.

(Ask the question '*how many persons?*' and you get the answer 'Every'.)

Tarun was **the first** to complete the test.

(Ask the question '*in what order* was Tarun?' and you get the answer 'the first'.)

[Note: *The nouns described by these adjectives are usually countable nouns.*]

Demonstrative Adjectives

These adjectives **answer the question 'which?'**

That house is mine.

(Ask the question '*which* house?' and you get the answer 'that'.)

Keerti gave me **this** pen.

(Ask the question '*which* pen?' and you get the answer 'this'.)

I can solve **these** puzzles.

(Ask the question '*which* puzzles?' and you get the answer 'these'.)

Those boys were playing in the park.

(Ask the question '*which* boys?' and you get the answer 'those'.)

I don't know why **such** questions are asked.

(Ask the question '*which* questions?' and you get the answer 'such'.)

When a noun does not immediately follow ‘*this*’, ‘*that*’, ‘*these*’ and ‘*those*’, they are referred to as **demonstrative pronouns**.

This is my car.

(‘This’ points to the object ‘my car’.)

That is a banana.

(‘That’ points to the object ‘a banana’.)

These are good apples.

(‘These’ points to the object ‘apples’.)

Those are her shoes.

(‘Those’ points to the object ‘her shoes’.)

[Remember: A noun does not immediately follow a demonstrative pronoun, while a demonstrative adjective always comes before a noun.]

Interrogative Adjectives

When ‘*what*’, ‘*which*’ and ‘*whose*’ are **used with some noun to ask a question**, they are called interrogative adjectives.

What kind of organism is it?

Which shirt do you want to wear?

Whose car are you driving?

When a noun does not immediately follow ‘*what*’ and ‘*which*’, they are called **interrogative pronouns**.

What is your name?

What is hidden under the picture?

(‘What’ is used for indicating the non-living.)

Which is Shyam’s house?

Which of these boys is the culprit?

(‘Which’ is used for indicating both the living and the non-living.)

[Remember: *A noun does not immediately follow an interrogative pronoun, while an interrogative adjective always comes before a noun.*]

Possessive Adjectives

These are **the possessive forms of the personal pronouns** ‘I’, ‘you’, ‘he’, ‘she’, ‘it’, ‘we’ and ‘they’. They are **immediately followed by a noun**.

My book is lying on the table.

Your phone is with the teacher.

His house is painted yellow.

Her parents are out of town.

Do you know the child’s name? Yes, I do know **its** name.

Our country is making great progress.

Your passports are lying with the judge.

Their performance was liked by all.

These possessive forms are different from possessive pronouns.

The book lying on the table is **mine**.

That phone is **yours**.

That yellow painted house is **his**.

That idea was **hers**.

All that land beyond the lake is **ours**.

These passports are **yours**.

At the end of the day, the award-winning performance was **theirs**.

[Remember: *A noun does not immediately follow a possessive pronoun, while a possessive adjective always comes before a noun.*]

The Positive, Comparative and Superlative

Adjectives have three forms—the positive, the comparative and the superlative.

Let us look at some adjectives and their different forms.

Where the comparative and superlative are formed by adding ‘-er’ and ‘-est’

| Positive Form | Comparative Form | Superlative Form |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Clever</i> | <i>Cleverer</i> | <i>Cleverest</i> |
| Utsav is a clever boy. | | |
| The lawyer is cleverer than the judge. | | |
| That is the cleverest politician I have ever seen. | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Heavy</i> | <i>Heavier</i> | <i>Heaviest</i> |
| <p>I am carrying heavy luggage.</p> <p>The weight I am carrying is heavier than the one you are carrying.</p> <p>That blue bag is the heaviest.</p> | | |
| <i>Hot</i> | <i>Hotter</i> | <i>Hottest</i> |
| <p>Today is a hot day.</p> <p>It was hotter yesterday than it is today.</p> <p>This has been the hottest month of the year.</p> | | |

Where the comparative and superlative are formed by adding 'more/less' and 'most/least'

| Positive Form | Comparative Form | Superlative Form |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Beautiful</i> | <i>More beautiful</i> | <i>Most beautiful</i> |
| <p>This picture is beautiful.</p> <p>That picture is more beautiful than this one.</p> <p>These pictures are the most beautiful I have ever seen.</p> | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Difficult</i> | <i>More difficult</i> | <i>Most difficult</i> |
| <p>The first question is difficult.</p> <p>The fifth question is more difficult than the first.</p> <p>This is the most difficult exam that I have ever sat for.</p> | | |
| <i>Fluent</i> | <i>More fluent</i> | <i>Most fluent</i> |
| <p>Himesh is very fluent.</p> <p>Gyanesh is more fluent than Himesh.</p> <p>Jignesh is the most fluent of the three.</p> | | |

Irregular adjectives

| Positive Form | Comparative Form | Superlative Form |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Good</i> | <i>Better</i> | <i>Best</i> |
| <p>I am good.</p> <p>He is better.</p> <p>They are the best.</p> | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Bad</i> | <i>Worse</i> | <i>Worst</i> |
| <p>His handwriting is bad.</p> <p>His teacher's handwriting is worse.</p> <p>The principal's handwriting is the worst.</p> | | |
| <i>Little</i> | <i>Less</i> | <i>Least</i> |
| <p>Dimagi has little intelligence.</p> <p>Khopadi has less intelligence than Dimagi.</p> <p>Bheja has the least intelligence of them all.</p> | | |
| <i>Much</i> | <i>More</i> | <i>Most</i> |
| <p>Lambu has much wealth.</p> <p>Tingu has more wealth than Lambu.</p> <p>Motu has the most wealth of the three.</p> | | |
| <i>Old</i> | <i>Older</i> | <i>Oldest</i> |
| <p>I am quite old.</p> <p>This book is older than that one.</p> | | |

We are **the oldest** members of this club.

Old

Elder

Eldest

He is very **old**.

I am **elder to** him.

She is **the eldest** in the family.