

# Adjectives

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## 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>
<p>Utsav is a <b>clever</b> boy.</p> <p>The lawyer is <b>cleverer than</b> the judge.</p> <p>That is <b>the cleverest</b> politician I have ever seen.</p>		
<i>Heavy</i>	<i>Heavier</i>	<i>Heaviest</i>
<p>I am carrying <b>heavy</b> luggage.</p> <p>The weight I am carrying is <b>heavier than</b> the one you are carrying.</p> <p>That blue bag is <b>the heaviest</b>.</p>		
<i>Hot</i>	<i>Hotter</i>	<i>Hottest</i>



<p>Today is a <b>hot</b> day.</p> <p>It was <b>hotter</b> yesterday <b>than</b> it is today.</p> <p>This has been <b>the hottest</b> month of the year.</p>
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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 <b>beautiful</b>.</p> <p>That picture is <b>more beautiful than</b> this one.</p> <p>These pictures are <b>the most beautiful</b> I have ever seen.</p>		
<i>Difficult</i>	<i>More difficult</i>	<i>Most difficult</i>
<p>The first question is <b>difficult</b>.</p> <p>The fifth question is <b>more difficult than</b> the first.</p> <p>This is <b>the most difficult</b> exam that I have ever sat for.</p>		

<i>Fluent</i>	<i>More fluent</i>	<i>Most fluent</i>
<p>Himesh is very <b>fluent</b>.</p> <p>Gyanesh is <b>more fluent than</b> Himesh.</p> <p>Jignesh is <b>the most fluent</b> of the three.</p>		

### Irregular adjectives

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Good</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Best</i>
<p>I am <b>good</b>.</p> <p>He is <b>better</b>.</p> <p>They are <b>the best</b>.</p>		
<i>Bad</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>Worst</i>
<p>His handwriting is <b>bad</b>.</p> <p>His teacher's handwriting is <b>worse</b>.</p> <p>The principal's handwriting is <b>the worst</b>.</p>		

<i>Little</i>	<i>Less</i>	<i>Least</i>
<p>Dimagi has <b>little</b> intelligence.</p> <p>Khopadi has <b>less</b> intelligence <b>than</b> Dimagi.</p> <p>Bheja has <b>the least</b> intelligence of them all.</p>		
<i>Much</i>	<i>More</i>	<i>Most</i>
<p>Lambu has <b>much</b> wealth.</p> <p>Tingu has <b>more</b> wealth <b>than</b> Lambu.</p> <p>Motu has <b>the most</b> wealth of the three.</p>		
<i>Old</i>	<i>Older</i>	<i>Oldest</i>
<p>I am quite <b>old</b>.</p> <p>This book is <b>older than</b> that one.</p> <p>We are <b>the oldest</b> members of this club.</p>		
<i>Old</i>	<i>Elder</i>	<i>Eldest</i>

He is very **old**.

I am **elder to** him.

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