

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

A Quick Grammar Guide

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Adjectives

- Are words that describe particular qualities possessed by people or things.
- Are usually attached to or relate to nouns.
- Are defined in two ways: according to position in relation to the noun or according to ability to form comparisons.

Adjectives

- *Attributive adjectives* appear before the **noun** they relate to.

Attributive adjectives:
Red dress, *Bright* colors,
Former president, *Latter*
item, *Utter* ruin

Adjectives

- *Predicative adjectives* are used after a verb such as *be, become, or seem*; a *noun complement*.

Predicative adjectives:

The dress is *red*.

The colors seem very *bright*.

Adjectives

- *Postpositive adjectives* are placed immediately after the noun they relate to; often found with **pronouns**.

Postpositive adjectives:
There's **something** *fishy* going on.
Everything *possible* is being done.

Adjectives

- Most adjectives are *gradable*; they can be used in comparisons or be modified by adverbs; they are measurable.

*Gradable
adjectives:*

Very, slightly,
totally,
more...than,
less...than, most

Adjectives

- *Non-gradable* adjectives do not make complete sense; they are too abstract.

*Non-gradable
adjectives:*

Perfect, impossible,
unique

Adjectives

- *Comparative* adjectives are used to compare things in twos, or one person or object with another.

This is the cheaper of the two options

John is taller than his brother or his father

Mary is more troublesome than all the rest of the children put together.

Adjectives

- The *comparative* form is made by adding **-er** for shorter words, or **more** for longer words.

Light**er**, Sweet**er**
Redd**er**, Bigg**er**
Angri**er**, Dri**er**
More comfortable
More unusual

Adjectives

- The *superlative* form of adjectives indicates that a person or thing possesses a quality greater than two or more other persons or things.

John is the *tallest* of the three boys.

It is the *cheapest* option currently on offer.

That bed is the *most comfortable* of them all.

Adjectives

- The superlative is formed by adding *-est* to short words or *most* to longer words.

Sweetest, Driest
Most comfortable,
Reddest, Shortest

Adjectives

- The order of adjectives in a string appear in a definite order (changed sometimes for emphasis or special effect):

general adjectives,
verbal adjectives, **color adjectives**, adjectives of nationality or region, noun-adjectives or noun-derived adjectives

CORRECT ORDER:

Fast red Italian sports
car

Big lighted orange
Japanese paper
lantern

Adverbs

- Modify words, phrases, or whole sentences
- Used most often with verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
- Derive mostly from adjectives and formed by adding *-ly* or *-ally* to the base form of the adjective.

The downtrodden clown walked *sadly* down the ramp.

The shoes were *originally* from the Philippines before they were exported to and sold in Italy.

Sad = *sadly*

Original = *originally*

Adverbs

- Some adverbs indicate time

Some adverbs indicating time:

Always, now, often, then,
today, yesterday,
currently, formerly,
simultaneously

Adverbs

- Indicate place

Some adverbs indicating place:

Here, there, everywhere,
around, down, in , out, up

Adverbs

- Adverbs may also have comparative and superlative forms.
- Most comparative and superlative forms use *more* and *most*.
- Some exceptions indicate speed: fast, faster, fastest.

Comparative and superlative adverbs:

The light was shining *more brightly* than before.

Teachers are the *most poorly* paid professionals in the whole industry.

Jack ran *fast*, Jill ran *faster*, and the dog ran *fastest* of all.

Adverbs

- **Adverbs** can be placed in almost any position within a clause without materially affecting its meaning.
- Adverbs are normally not put between a **verb** and its **direct object**.

CORRECT:

Quickly I gathered my things.

I *quickly* gathered my things.

I gathered my things *quickly*.

WRONG:

I gathered *quickly* my things.

Adverbs

- Changing the position of an adverb may crucially affect the meaning.

Only this key fits that lock.

This key fits that lock *only*. (or *only* fits that lock)

Adverbs

- **Adverbs** are best placed next to **the word they relate to.**

A *very* quick change

Adverbs

- Always place **adverbs** before **adjectives** or other **adverbs** they modify.

Things are changing
very quickly

Adverbial Phrase or Clause

- An adverbial phrase or clause often performs the role of an adverb.
- Adverbial phrases may be built around an adverb.
- Adverbial phrases may be built on a preposition.
- Adverbial clauses are often introduced by words such as *because, if, when, where, and while*.
- *Adverbial clauses* are also simply called *adverbials*.

As soon as possible
Strangely enough
Rather unusually

In a minute
Beside the lake
Owing to
circumstances
beyond our control

END

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