

## What Are Adjectives?

**Adjectives** describe . . . specifically, adjectives describe nouns and pronouns. In relation to nouns and pronouns, they describe *what kind, how many, how much, or which one*. Also, more than one adjective can modify the same noun or pronoun.

Nouns can also be used as adjectives. They tell *what kind* or *which one* about the noun modified. Here we use the noun *afternoon* as an example.

We went to school in the **afternoon**. (noun)

We went to **afternoon class**. (adjective)

Possessive pronouns, such as *our and his*, can be considered adjectives because they modify nouns in addition to their usual function as pronouns.

Larry wanted to borrow **our book** but did not want to give us **his watch** as collateral.

Similarly, possessive nouns can also be considered adjectives.

**Julia's dream** of a prince rescuing her from a **knight's castle** quickly turned into a nightmare when she discovered the prince was a big green toad.

Adjectives can be used anywhere in a sentence and do not need to be close to the nouns they modify. In the examples below, the adjective *obedient* modifies the noun *poodle*.

How **obedient** the poodle is!

That **obedient** poodle belongs to Kara.

The poodle is **obedient**.

The judges considered the poodle **obedient**.

The poodle, always **obedient**, waited by the door.

Adjectives are one of the easiest Parts of Speech to identify. There are several different kinds of adjective—Articles, Predicate Adjective, Comparison, Proper Adjective, Demonstrative Adjective or Adjective Clauses—but in all forms their job is to describe. To find an adjective you first find a noun and then begin asking the questions—*what kind, how many, how much, or which one*.

### Examples:

What Kind	How Many	How Much	Which One
<b>beautiful</b> girl	<b>few</b> girls	<b>four-year-old</b> girl	<b>tallest</b> girl
<b>chocolate</b> ice cream	<b>several</b> ice creams	<b>double</b> ice cream	<b>Bryers</b> ice cream
<b>old-fashioned</b> suit	<b>numerous</b> suits	<b>empty</b> suit rack	<b>black</b> suit

### Examples:

**Male ants** mate with **young queens** and live very **short lives**. (Adjectives—*what kind of ants, how much lives*)

Draft **horses** are also extremely **strong** and **energetic**. (Predicate Adjective—*what kind of horses*)

Yellowstone is the **largest national park** in the United States. (Comparative, Adjective—*how much of a park, what kind of park*)

**That** speedboat is the **fastest** on the river. (Demonstrative, Predicate Adjective—*which one speedboat, what kind of speedboat*)

The **Austrian** skier won first place in the **slalom** event. (Proper Adjective, Adjective—*which skier, which event*)

All articles—a, an, the—are also adjectives (which will be reviewed in the next lesson) as they also make a noun more specific. On most state exams, when students are asked to identify the adjectives the directions usually also say to not identify the articles. Just know that articles—a, an, the— are ALWAYS adjectives.

How many different adjectives can you use to describe what you see in the image to the right?



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