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Geography & Travel Languages adjective, a word or phrase that modifies, or specifies, the meaning of a noun or pronoun. An adjective provides additional information about a noun or pronoun by answering the question What kind? (for example, a green bicycle), How much? (more ice cream), How many? (three cats), or Whose is it? (her backpack). Possessive adjectives (my, your, his, its, our, their, and whose) are placed before a noun to show who or what owns or possesses it (her guitar, our house). Coordinate adjectives are two or more adjectives that modify the same noun in a sentence to the same degree and are typically separated by a comma or the word and (The smart, witty teacher had the whole class laughing). When an adjective is placed immediately before the noun that it modifies, it is called an attributive adjective (the yellow car). When an adjective follows a linking verb (such as be, seem, or feel) to connect with the noun that it modifies, it is known as a predicate adjective (The sky is clear). In some cases, two or more adjectives are used with commas or dashes and placed after the noun they modify (The princess, strong and determined, continued her quest, or before the noun (Strong and determined, the princess continued her quest); these are known as appositive adjectives. Comparative adjectives, as their name suggests, are used to compare two or more things (The oak tree is taller than the elm tree). Superlative adjectives are used to compare one thing with several other things (The oak tree is the tallest tree in our neighbourhood). With most short, one-syllable adjectives, the comparative adjective can be formed by adding the suffix -er, and the superlative adjective can be formed by adding -est. With longer adjectives, the comparative can typically be formed by adding the word more or less before the adjective (more dangerous, less dangerous), and the superlative can be formed by adding the word most or least (most dangerous, least dangerous). There are, however, exceptions, such as the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives good (better and best) and bad (worse and worst). In some cases, words that are usually used as nouns or pronouns can function as adjectives, depending on where they are placed in a sentence. For example, in the sentence “She rode the commuter train to the city,” the word commuter functions as an adjective modifying the noun train. The pronouns all, another, any, both, each, either, few, many, more, neither, one, other, several, some, that, these, this, those, what, and which can also be used as adjectives, as in the sentence “He decided to eat another cookie.” Adjectives and adverbs are sometimes confused because they both modify other words.

Adjectives modify only nouns and pronouns, whereas adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. When an adverb modifies an adjective, it usually clarifies the intensity of the adjective. In the sentence “He was very happy,” the word very is an adverb modifying the adjective happy. Bill Guerriero Person Skydiving With List of Common Adjectives Skydiving: BSVIT / iStock / Getty Images Plus / Background: Tolchik / iStock / Getty Images Plus Used under Getty Images license Adjectives modify perhaps the most common words in the English language, nouns. With a list of common adjectives at hand, you can effectively describe your surroundings in detail. The words on this list of 228 adjectives can all be used to describe feelings or the appearance of objects and can also make it easy to describe yourself, your surroundings and your favorite things. The first part of this list features commonly used adjectives from the first four letters of the alphabet, adorable adventurous aggressive agreeable alive amused angry annoyed anxious arrogant ashamed attractive average awful bad beautiful better bewildered black bloody blue blue-eyed blushing brood briny brave breakable bright busy calm careful cautious charming cheerful clean clear clever cloudy clumsy colorful combative comfortable concerned condemned confused cooperative courageous crazy creepy crowded cruel cruel cut dangerous dark dead defeated defiant delightful depressed determined difficult difficult distinct disturbed dizzy doubtful drab dull There are plenty more often-used adjectives that start with letters in the next part of the alphabet. Review these adjective words that begin with the letters “e” through “k.” eager easy elated elegant embarrassed enchanting enchanting energetic enthusiastic envious evil excited expensive exuberant fair faithful fancies funny fantastic fierce filthy fine foolish fragile frail frantic friendly frightened funny gentle gifted glamorous gleaming glorious good gorgeous graceful grieving grotesque grumpy handsome happy healthy helpful helpless hilarious homeless homely horrible hungry hurt ill important impossible inexpensive inquisitive itchy jealous jittery jolly joyous kind Moving forward in alphabetical order, there are still many more adjectives appropriate for use in everyday conversation. Explore these common words that start with the letters between “l” and “s.” lazy light lively lonely long love lucky lucky magnificent misty morning motionless muddy mussly mysterious nasty naughty nervous nice nutty obedient obnoxious odd old-fashioned open outrageous outstanding panicky perfect plain pleasant poised poor powerful precious prickly proud putrid puzzled quaint real relieved repulsive rich scary selfish shiny silly smiling smug smugly sparkling splendid spottish stormy strange stupid successful super There are plenty more common adjectives throughout the remainder of the alphabet. Explore the most common words that start with the letters between “t” and “z.” talented taned taste tendered terrible thoughtful thoughtful tired tired tired uglyly unimpaired unimpaired upright vast victoriously victorious wide-eyed witty worry worrisome wrong zany zealous Keeping with all of these words, don't be challenged with the challenge of just downloading the printable version of this list by clicking the macos below, then print or save the file to your computer.

You'll be excited to see that the printable version has even more adjectives! Whether you are a native English speaker or you are learning English as a second language, using an adjective list like this one can help you expand your language skills and organize your learning. Using an adjective list can help you build a more advanced vocabulary and build your ability to use descriptive language. This, in turn, will allow you to become a more effective writer and speaker. People who are learning a foreign language often make a list of common descriptive words to study in order to expand their vocabulary beyond just basic nouns and verbs in the new language. Adjectives are words that describe something or someone. Scruffy, purple, concerned, and special are all adjectives. They usually (but not always) come right before what they are describing. Here are some examples: “A scruffy dog sat in the window.” (Scruffy is the adjective, and dog is the thing being described.) “She wore a purple shirt.” (Purple is the adjective, and shirt is the thing being described.) “The birthday seemed special.” (Special is the adjective, and birthday is the thing being described.) Some adjectives describe qualities–spiciness, for example—that can vary in amount or degree. They often do this by changing form (usually by adding -er or -est): you might prefer your food spicier than others in your family do, or take pride in your ability to handle the spiciest hot sauce on the market. But adjectives can also be used with adverbs like more, most, less, very, slightly, etc. For example, beautiful is one example of an adjective whose degree can only be modified in this way; you could say that one painting is more beautiful than another, but you can't say that one painting is twice as beautiful as another. 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whereas in French, they always agree. In German, they agree only when they are used attributively, and in Hungarian, they agree only when they are used predicatively: The good (O) boys. The boys are good (O). Les garçons sont bons. Die braven Jungen. Die Jungen sind brav (O). A jó (O) fiúk. A fiúk jók. This section needs expansion with: other aspects of adjective semantics. You can help by adding to it. (talk) (August 2022) Semanticist Barbara Partee classifies adjectives semantically as intersective, subsective, or nonsubsective, with nonsubsective adjectives being plain nonsubsective or privative.[15] An adjective is intersective if and only if the extension of its combination with a noun is equal to the intersection of its extension and that of the noun its modifying. For example, the adjective carnivorous is intersective, given the extension of carnivorous mammal is the intersection of the extensions of carnivorous and mammal (i.e., the set of all mammals who are carnivorous). An adjective is subsective if and only if the extension of its combination with a noun is a subset of the extension of the noun. For example, the extension of skillful surgeon is a subset of the extension of surgeon, but it is not the intersection of that and the extension of skillful, as that would include (for example) incompetent surgeons who are skilled violinists. All intersective adjectives are subsective, but the term 'subsective' is sometimes used to refer to only those subsective adjectives which are not intersective. An adjective is privative if and only if the extension of its combination with a noun is disjoint from the extension of the noun. For example, fake is privative because a fake cat is not a cat. A plain nonsubsective adjective is an adjective that is not subsective or privative. For example, the word possible is this kind of adjective, as the extension of possible murderer overlaps with, but is not included in the extension of murderer (as some, but not all, possible murderers are murderers). Flat adverb List of eponymous adjectives in English Predication (philosophy) Proper adjective ^ In English dictionaries, which typically still do not treat determiners as their own part of speech, determiners are often recognizable by being listed both as adjectives and as pronouns. ^ Trask, R.L. (2013). A Dictionary of Grammatical Terms in Linguistics. Taylor & Francis. p. 188. ISBN 978-1-134-88420-9. ^ adjectivus. Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short. A Latin Dictionary on Perseus Project. ^ ἐπιθετός. Liddell, Henry George; Scott, Robert; A Greek-English Lexicon at the Perseus Project ^ Mastrorarde, Donald J. Introduction to Attic Greek. University of California Press, 2013. p. 60. ^ McMenomy, Bruce A. Syntactical Mechanics: A New Approach to English, Latin, and Greek. University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. p. 8. ^ Trask, R.L. (2013). A Dictionary of Grammatical Terms in Linguistics. Taylor & Francis. p. 188. ISBN 978-1-134-88420-9. ^ a b See: "Attributive and predicative adjectives" at Lexico, archived 15 May 2020. ^ a b Bowers, Claire (2013). A grammar of Bardi. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. ISBN 978-3-11-027818-7. OCLC 848086054. ^ Simpson, Jane (6 December 2012). Warlpiri Morpho-Syntax - a Lexicalist Approach. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands. ISBN 978-94-011-3204-6. OCLC 851384391. ^ a b c Order of adjectives. British Council. ^ R.M.W. Dixon, "Where Have all the Adjectives Gone?" Studies in Language 1, no. 1 (1977): 19-80. ^ Dowling, Tim (13 September 2016). "Order force: the old grammar rule we all obey without realising". The Guardian. ^ Adjectives: order (from English Grammar Today), in the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary online ^ R. Declerck, A Comprehensive Descriptive Grammar of English (1991), p. 350: "When there are several descriptive adjectives, they normally occur in the following order: characteristic - size - shape - age - colour - [...]" ^ Partee, Barbara (1995). "Lexical semantics and compositionality". In Gleitman, Lila; Liberman, Mark; Osherson, Daniel N. (eds.). An Invitation to Cognitive Science: Language. The MIT Press. doi:10.7551/mitpress/3964.003.0015. ISBN 978-0-262-15044-6. Dixon, R. M. W. (1977). "Where Have All the Adjectives Gone?". Studies in Language. 1: 19–80. doi:10.1075/sl.1.1.04dix. Dixon, R. M. W. (1993). R. E. Asher (ed.), The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics (1st ed.). Pergamon Press Inc. pp. 29–35. ISBN 0-08-035943-4. Dixon, R. M. W. (1999). "Adjectives". In K. Brown & T. Miller (eds.), Concise Encyclopedia of Grammatical Categories. Amsterdam: Elsevier. ISBN 0-08-043164-X. pp. 1–8. Rießler, Michael (2016). Adjective Attribution. Language Science Press. ISBN 9783944675657. Warren, Beatrice (1984). Classifying adjectives. Gothenburg studies in English No. 56. Göteborg: Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis. ISBN 91-7346-133-4. Wierzbicka, Anna (1986). "What's in a Noun? (Or: How Do Nouns Differ in Meaning from Adjectives?)". Studies in Language. 10 (2): 353–389. doi:10.1075/sl.10.2.05wie. Look up adjective in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Look up predicative adjective in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. List of English collateral adjectives at Wiktionary Retrieved from " noun (1)Adjective (4)View synonmys for adjectiveGrammar., any member of a class of words that modify nouns and pronouns, primarily by describing a particular quality of the word they are modifying, as wise in a wise grandmother, or perfect in a perfect score, or handsome in He is extremely handsome. Other terms, as numbers (one cup, twelve months), certain demonstrative pronouns (this magazine; those questions), and terms that impose limits (each person; no mercy) can also function adjectivally, as can some nouns that are found chiefly in fixed phrases where they immediately precede the noun they modify, as bottle in bottle cap and bus in bus station.Synonyms: qualifier, modifierpertaining to or functioning as an adjective; adjectival.the adjective use of a noun.Law., concerning methods of enforcement of legal rights, as pleading and practice (substantive).(of dye colors) requiring a mordant or the like to render them permanent (substantive).Archaic., not able to stand alone; dependent.Women were seen by some (by some men, that is) as adjective creatures, needing to be cared for and protected from the vicissitudes of life./ 'ædʒɪktɪv, ædʒɪk'tarvəl /a word imputing a characteristic to a noun or pronoun adj. (as modifier)"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012additional or dependent(of law) relating to court practice and procedure, as opposed to the principles of law dealt with by the courts Compare substantive"Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged" 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012A part of speech that describes a noun or pronoun. Adjectives are usually placed just before the words they qualify: shy child, blue notebook, rotten apple, four horses, another table.How do we spot an adjective? For one thing, adjectives tell us about the nouns they qualify by answering questions like “what kind,” “which one,” and “how many”: a serious student; the purple flower; three kisses. But in English there are adjectives and there are adjectives. Those in the second group are more adjectival than the others, in that the qualifications they express can themselves be qualified. The word more is our clue; true adjectives can compare one entity to another. For adjectives with two or more syllables, the comparative and superlative are formed with more and most (more captivating; the most enthralling). Monosyllables, and some disyllables that happen to end in -y, change form, with occasional accommodations in spelling, by adding -er and -est: smart, smarter, smartest; happy, happier, happiest. There are, of course, irregular members of this group; despite what your average three-year-old says, things go from good to better and best, not to gooder and goodest. But there is a caution; some adjectives have absolute meanings that can make them seem absurd if used comparatively. If a plant is dead, for example, another plant cannot be more dead. In addition, many true adjectives are gradable. That is, they can be upgraded (very pretty), downgraded (somewhat disorganized), or intensified (really tired). Usually, those that should not be compared, as correct, impossible, and mortal, are also not gradable. A vote, for example, cannot be very unanimous, too unanimous, or not unanimous enough; it is either unanimous or not. And only in The Wizard of Oz is the Wicked Witch “not only merely dead, she's really most sincerely dead.” That is not to say that there are no exceptions, as can be seen at the expanded usage note for the absolute adjective unique. Pronouns, as your, this, and each, can also function as adjectives. But it is the noun as modifier, like bottle and bus in bottle cap and bus station, that gives headaches to dictionary compilers. Faced with evidence, they must ask themselves if occasional use as a modifier makes a particular noun worthy of full adjective status. Bottle and bus certainly do not pass comparison or gradation tests; my cap isn't more bottle than yours, nor is it very bottle. These nouns are not listed as adjectives in this dictionary. Yet similar nouns, like coffee, kitchen, and summer, are. The number of items they can modify, the number of adjectival senses they have, and the degree to which such senses differ from their noun senses all play a part in the decision. That decision, however is never final. Meanings expand and evolve. Language changes as we speak.adjectival adjectiveadjectivally adverbadjectively adverbnonadjectively adverbpreadjective adjectiveOrigin of adjective1First recorded in 1350-1400; Middle English, from Late Latin adjectivum, neuter of adjectivus, equivalent to adjectus) “attached, added, past participle of adjicere (ad- “toward” + -jere-, combining form of jac- “to throw” + -tus past participle suffix) + -ivus adjective suffix; ad-, -iveOrigin of adjective1C14; from Late Latin adjectivus attributive, from adjicere to throw to, add, from ad- to + jacere to throw; in grammatical sense, from the Latin phrase nōmen adjectivum attributive nounExamples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com.If you gift your daughter the house — leaving aside the debate over using “gift” as an adjective — your daughter would lose her step-up in basis.On a recent weekday, the country’s leading legal lexicographer was ensconced among the 4,500 some-odd dictionaries that fill his Dallas home, revising the entry for the adjective “calculated” ahead of Black’s 13th Edition.Read more on Los Angeles TimesBut you walk out underwhelmed, which is not an adjective that generally applies to anything Bruce Springsteen does.“There’s no more adjectives you can use to describe him.”Read more on Los Angeles Times“There’s not enough adjectives, superlatives—whatever you want to say,” Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman said.Read more on The Wall Street Journaladjectivaladjective clauseBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhijjkkllmmnooppqqrrssttuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! © 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC