

Adjectives

An **adjective** is a describing word, it is a word that qualifies the noun, giving more information about the object signified, it adds to its meaning, but limits its application.

e.g. - The new book.
- The clever student.

An adjective may be used:

1. To qualify a noun as attributive adjective,
e.g. a good boy.
- good boys.
2. To form part of the predicate as a predicative adjective,
e.g. the book is new.
- The horse is black.

This means that, in English, the adjective can precede or come after the noun. Adjectives, in English, have only one form which is used with singular and plural, masculine and feminine noun,

e.g. - a clever boy.
- clever boys.
- a clever girl.
- clever girls.

The adjective can be used as a noun. When it is used as a noun, the adjective is singular in form but plural in meaning,

e.g. - The rich should help the poor.

In English, there are six kinds of adjectives which are as follows:

1. **Adjectives of Quality** - These adjectives are used to describe the nature of a noun. They give an idea about the characteristics of the noun by answering the question 'what kind'

- Ex.* -Honest, Kind, Large, Bulky, Beautiful, Ugly etc.
- New Delhi is a **large** city with many historical monuments.
 - Sheila is a **beautiful** woman.
 - He is a *nice* boy.
 - Lucy has a *white* cow.
 - Sumi is an *intelligent* boy.
 - It is a *heavy* box.
 - Their **good** performance gave them what they expected.

2. Adjectives of Quantity: These adjectives help to show the amount or the approximate amount of the noun or pronoun. These adjectives do not provide exact numbers; rather they tell us the amount of the noun in relative or whole terms. Such expressions are usually used with this kind of adjective: All, Half, Many, Few, Little, No, Enough, Great, etc. these may be:

- a) Definite: such as one, two, three, four, five, six, etc.
- b) In definite: such as all, some, several, half, several, many ...etc.

- e.g.
- They have finished **most** of the rice.
 - **Many** people came to visit the fair.
 - I read **two** books.

3. Possessive adjectives: possessive adjectives refer to words which modify a noun by showing a form of possession or a sense of belonging to a particular person or thing. Possessive adjectives are the words used to show a form of possession or are used to express a close relationship with someone or something. Some of the most basic possessive adjectives used in the English are: *my, your, our, its, her, his, their, mine, and whose*.

e.g.

1. **Whose** bag is this?
2. That is **his** baseball cap.
3. **My** mother is here.
4. **His** name is Kevin.

5. **Her** name is Michaela.
6. Our cat is always licking **its**.
7. We sold **our** dune buggy yesterday.
8. The children thanked **their**.

4.A distributive adjective: a distributive adjective considers members of a group separately, rather than collectively. They include *each, any, either, neither* and others. A **distributive adjective or pronoun, such as "each", "either", or "every"**.

e.g.

1. **Each** of the students have participated in the drama act.
2. I may buy **either** of these two gifts.
3. **Neither** of them plays well.
4. **Each** one of you will be awarded with bravery award.
5. **Everyone** must finish the breakfast.
6. **Either** of you can help me in this matter.
7. **Neither** of you has qualified this exam to go ahead.
8. **Each** of the parents should take care of their children.
9. **Either** of you may answer the questions asked by me.
10. **Neither** of the answer given by you is correct.
11. **Any** of you can join the program as a leader of the team.
12. **None** of our friends went to the Christmas party.

5. Interrogative adjectives are words similar to interrogative pronouns, but they can't stand on their own. In other words, they serve to modify another term, specifically a noun. The words "which" and "what" are the two interrogative adjectives and are used in interrogative sentences to modify nouns found in the question.

e.g. - Which coat is Paul's? ("which" is an interrogative adjective that modifies coat)

- What CD is Sarah listening to? ("what" is an interrogative adjective that modifies CD)

- Which book on gardening do you recommend?
- What assignment are you working on now?
- Which team scored the highest points in the academic bowl?

- What recipe made the finals in the cook off?

6. Demonstrative adjective: demonstrative adjectives are **adjectives** that are used to modify a noun so that we know which specific person, place, or thing is mentioned. It is the adjective that points out which person, object or concept is being referred to; whether it is singular or plural; and whether it is near or far from the speaker or writer

The primary singular form of these adjectives are as follows:

1. This
2. That
3. Yonder
4. Yon
5. Former
6. Latter

The plural demonstrative adjectives include:

1. These
2. Those

Example of demonstrative adjective

1. **These** shoes fit me very well.
2. **Those** shoes are too expensive.
3. The **former** CEO of Biztech was Michael Rogers.
4. The **latter** option will cost us a lot less money.
5. **This** is the best day of my life.
6. **That** dog is so adorable.

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