

## ADJECTIVES

**Adjectives** are words which describe or modify another person or thing in a sentence. An adjective can modify a noun or a pronoun by describing, identifying or quantifying words. An adjective usually comes just before the noun or the pronoun which it modifies. The articles **a**, **an** and **the** are adjectives.



For Example:

- **The tall** doctor.
- **The lugubrious** woman.
- **A solid** promise.
- **A month's** salary.
- **A six year old** child.
- **The happiest, poorest** man.
- **The car shaped** balloon floated over the treetops.
- Mrs. Smith decorated her **kitchen** walls with **beautiful** wall paper.
- **The small boat** sailed on the wine dark sea.
- **The coal** mines are **dark** and **damp**.
- **Many** stores have already begun to play the **cheerful Christmas** music.
- **A brand new music** box sat on the **wooden** sideboard.
- The backroom was filled with **large, yellow** paper hangings.

If a group of words which consists of a subject and a verb acts as an adjective, it is called an adjective clause.

My sister, **who is much older than I am**, is a doctor.

If the subject and verb are removed from the adjective clause, then the resulting modifier becomes an adjective phrase. She is the woman ~~who is~~ keeping my family in the poorhouse.

Don't overuse adjective, let the nouns and verbs describe things.

An adjective can be modified by an adverb or an adverb phrase or clause Look at the following sentence..

My wife tries to knit intricately **patterned** mittens. (The adverb **intricately** modifies the adjective **patterned**)

Some nouns, pronouns and participle phrases can also act as adjectives.

Stacy listen to the **muffled** sounds of the radio **hidden** under her pillow.  
(Both highlighted adjectives are past participles.)

## Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives my, your, his, her, its, our, their are also possessive pronouns but they are used as adjectives and modify a noun or a noun phrase. Look at the sentence below

I can't complete **my** assignment because I don't have the textbook. (Here, the possessive adjective modifies "assignment" and the noun phrase "my assignment" functions as an object. The possessive pronoun "mine" is not used to modify a noun or a noun phrase.)



What is **your** phone number? (Here, the possessive pronoun "your" is used to modify the noun phrase "phone number"; the entire noun phrase, "your phone number" is a subject complement. Note that the possessive pronoun form yours is not used to modify a noun or a noun phrase.

The bakery sold **her** favorite type of bread. (Here, the possessive adjective "her" modifies the noun phrase "favorite type of bread" and the entire noun phrase "her favorite type of bread" is the direct object of the compound verb "have sold". The possessive pronoun form "theirs" is not used to modify the nouns or the noun phrases.

After many years, he returned to **his** homeland. (Here, the possessive adjective "his" is used to modify the noun "homeland". The noun phrase "his homeland" is the object of the preposition "to".

Similar examples:

They have lost **their** way in the wood

In many fairy tales, small children are neglected by **their** parents.

The dog chased **its** ball down the stairs and into the backyard.

## Demonstrative Adjectives

This, that, these, those demonstrative adjectives. Demonstrative adjectives are identical to the demonstrative pronouns, but are used as adjectives to modify nouns or noun phrases, like in the following sentences:

When the waitress tripped over **that** cord, she dropped the drinks.

In this sentence the demonstrative adjective "that" modifies the noun "cord" and the noun phrase "that cord" is the object of the preposition "over"



**This house needs to  
be fumigated. i**

**This** house needs to be fumigated.

Here "this" modifies "house" and the noun phrase "this house" is the subject of the sentence.

Even though my partner preferred **those** tools, I bought these.

In the subordinate clause, "those" modifies "tools" and the noun phrase "those tools" is the object of the verb "preferred". In the independent clause, the direct object of the verb "bought" is "these".

The relationship between a demonstrative adjective and a demonstrative pronoun is just like the relationship between the possessive adjective and possessive pronoun or just like the relationship between the interrogative adjective and interrogative pronoun.



## Interrogative Adjectives

Which or What are interrogative adjectives. An interrogative adjective is similar to an interrogative pronoun but it modifies a noun or a noun phrase rather than being on its own.

**Which** plants should be watered once a week? (Here, **which** modifies plants)

**What** game are you playing? (Here "what" modifies game)

## Indefinite Adjectives



**I will send you any mail that arrives after you have moved to Delhi**

Indefinite adjective is similar to an indefinite pronoun, but it modifies a noun, pronoun or a noun phrase. Look at the following sentences:

**Many** people believe that company's are under taxed. (Here, the indefinite adjective **many** modifies the noun "people".

I will send you **any** mail that arrives after you have moved to Delhi. (Here, the indefinite adjective **any** modifies the noun "mail")

They found a **few** goldfish swimming in the pond. (Here, the indefinite adjective **few** modifies the noun "goldfish")

The title of Jimmy's favorite book is "Do **all** dogs go to heaven?" (Here, the indefinite adjective **all** modifies the noun "dogs")