

ADJECTIVE PATTERNS

Adjectives are words which give extra information about nouns. They do not change their form to show number or gender:

The hero was played by a young boy. Several young girls took the secondary roles.
Many adjectives are formed from other words; notice the spelling changes:

+ ic	+ (f)al	+ able	+ ful	+ ent	+ ive
history →	politics →	fashion →	beauty →	depend →	effect →
historic	political	fashionable	beautiful	dependent	effective
+ ous	+ less	participles (▶ 21.2A)	compounds (▶ 21.2C)		
danger →	hope →	interesting	home-made		
dangerous	hopeless	interested	red-hot		

Adjectives can sometimes act as nouns when they describe a particular group or characteristic (▶ 28.1B). We usually use the definite article and a plural verb:

Old people are becoming more numerous. = *The old are becoming more numerous.*

① We cannot use the possessive 's with adjectives used as nouns or make them plural:

✗ *The government is looking at the disabled's problems.*

✓ *The government is looking at the problems of the disabled.*

✗ *The Japanese enjoy a high standard of living.*

✓ *The Japanese (or Japanese people) enjoy a high standard of living.*

② When we make a brief comment in conversation we often use *what* + adjective + noun or *how* + adjective:

What an amazing story! ✗ *What amazing!* ✓ *How amazing!*

Most adjectives can be used in front of a noun (attributive position), or after a linking verb, e.g. *be* (predicative position):

• Attributive: *We've just seen an exciting film.*

• Predicative: *That film was exciting.*

③ But there are some adjectives which we usually only use in one position. Some classifying adjectives (which describe what type of thing something is) and emphasising adjectives are mainly used before a noun (see the table below):

✗ *The plant they are building outside the town is chemical.*
✓ *They're building a chemical plant outside the town.*

Adjectives usually used in attributive position:

classifying adjectives	<i>chemical, chief, criminal, elder, entire, eventual, former, industrial, local, lone, main, maximum, medical, national, nuclear, only, outdoor/indoor, principal, social, sole, underlying, whole</i>
emphasising adjectives	<i>mere, sheer, utter</i>

21.1

Use the word in the box to form an adjective that fits in the numbered space in the sentence. The exercise begins with an example (0).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 0 I have absolutely no interest in <i>political</i> debates. | 0 politics |
| 1 Entry to the single currency zone is on meeting several financial criteria. | 1 depend |
| 2 Most public car parks now have special parking bays for the | 2 able |
| 3 John F Kennedy enjoyed a rise to fame in the 1960s. | 3 meteor |
| 4 Our lives are ruled by bureaucrats who seem to be answerable to no one. | 4 face |
| 5 It was more than funny, it was absolutely | 5 hysteria |
| 6 People claim the rise of popular culture has had a effect on national identity. | 6 destroy |
| 7 There are few things more than people who shout at waiters. | 7 disagree |
| 8 They say the love their pets more than their children. | 8 Britain |
| 9 I've made my mind up and any attempt to change it is | 9 point |
| 10 The soil in this valley is particularly | 10 fertility |
| 11 As a teenager I went through a very phase. | 11 argue |
| 12 Unfortunately, a sense of moral duty seems to be becoming increasingly these days. | 12 fashion |
| 13 Orange and lemon trees are in this part of Spain. | 13 plenty |
| 14 Two weeks in the Bahamas for less than a hundred dollars? That's! | 14 believe |
| 15 There's no point carrying on, the situation is | 15 hope |
| 16 The compass will only work when laid on a surface. | 16 horizon |
| 17 That documentary on drug smuggling was a fine example of journalism. | 17 investigate |
| 18 Dry cleaning is often the only way to deal with stubborn stains. | 18 effect |
| 19 Some of his pathetic excuses were downright | 19 laugh |
| 20 According to recent statistics the have Europe's highest per capita income. | 20 Holland |

2 21.1

Look at these pairs of sentences. Tick (✓) those which are grammatically correct and cross (✗) those which are incorrect. In some cases both sentences are correct.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 A Cost is the chief factor. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B The cost factor is chief. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 A This is the principal argument. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B This argument is principal. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 A He had an ashamed feeling. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B He felt ashamed. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 A That's a ridiculous idea. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B That idea is ridiculous. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 A The village has a local post office. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B The village post office is local. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 A It was sheer madness. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B The madness was sheer. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 A You have a ready dinner. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B Your dinner is ready. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 A He had an alone sensation. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B He sensed he was alone. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 A We're building an indoor pool. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B The pool we are building is indoor. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 A You have very alike children. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B Your children are very alike. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 A That was a silly comment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B That comment was silly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 A She's a mere beginner. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B That beginner is mere. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 A They are afraid people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B Those people are afraid. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 A We have maximum security here. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B Here the security is maximum. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 A He's my ill brother. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B My brother is ill. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4

Rewrite the jumbled phrases to make sentences with the correct word order.

- 1 named/Samantha/their first daughter/the couple
.....
- 2 to stand/when he arrives/visitors/expects/His Excellency
.....
- 3 to stay/a legal assistant/I wouldn't like/for long
.....
- 4 brought/to the team/Amanda/all her expertise
.....
- 5 brought/the team/Amanda/all her expertise
.....
- 6 has become/a very inexperienced salesman/the Sales Manager
.....
- 7 into the box/sparkling, diamond encrusted/he placed/18-carat gold ring/carefully wrapped/the
.....
- 8 provided/all rubbish/please/in the bins/put
.....
- 9 let/to/your parents/all-night parties/do/go/you/?
.....
- 10 the grenade/removed/the paratrooper/the pin/from/carefully
.....

5

Match the clauses in A and B to make sentences, using a linking word from the box to join them. Decide if each sentence contains co-ordinated clauses or a subordinate clause, and write C or S.

after and even though if or so than that ~~when~~

A

- 0 Did the doctor say exactly
- 1 It was the finest portrait
- 2 Some of the passengers were causing trouble
- 3 The holiday will be automatically cancelled
- 4 The policeman was rushed to hospital
- 5 We can either go camping
- 6 Maurice Greene won the gold medal
- 7 Our car broke down last week
- 8 The whole class would rather go to the cinema

B

- a the pilot diverted the plane to the nearest airport.
- b stay in a cheap hotel.
- c we only bought it two months ago.
- d he smashed the World and Olympic Records.
- e he had been stabbed in the park.
- f the artist had ever painted.
- g see a play at the theatre.
- h you'll be able to go back to work? ... ± when (S)
- i we don't receive the balance on the due date.

6 ALL

Some
Nine of these sentences contain mistakes. Tick (✓) the correct sentences and correct the mistakes.

- 1 The wind knocked the vase off the table and it broke thousands of pieces.
- 2 The attitude of some shopkeepers today makes me absolutely furious!
- 3 The children seemed content to remain to be tenants in their parents' house.
- 4 I can't understand what's happened. There appears some mistake.
- 5 The whole teaching staff found the new head teacher very inefficient and positively offensive.
- 6 No wonder you can't get a table for tonight – we recommended book the restaurant at least a week in advance.
- 7 The winning team proudly showed to their gathered fans their trophy.
- 8 The voice over the loudspeaker explained us the problem.
- 9 I don't know the way to the library. Can you tell me to go?
- 10 The young boy looked around and gingerly placed back in its correct position the gold watch. He wouldn't steal it after all.

21.1C Adjectives in predicative position are usually the complement of a linking verb (e.g. *be, become, feel, seem* * 30.2B):
When she heard the noise Mary became very uneasy.
 However, after certain verbs of thinking and feeling (i.e. *consider, find, think*) we can omit the linking verb:
I consider/find him (to be) very reliable.
 Many adjectives beginning with the letter *a* and adjectives describing health and feelings are not usually used before nouns; we use them in predicative position:
 ✗ ~~Try not to disturb the asleep children.~~
 ✓ *Try not to disturb the children; they are asleep.*

Adjectives usually used in predicative position:

beginning with *a* *ablate, affect, afraid, alight, alike, alive, alone, aloof, ashamed, askew, asleep, awake, aware*
health and feelings *content, time, glad, ill, pleased, poorly, ready, sorry, sure, upset, (un)well*

① There are some fixed phrases/slogans in which we use normally predicative adjectives before a noun with a special meaning, e.g. *glad tidings, an ill wind, a ready wit, a sorry state, an upset stomach.*

Some predicative adjectives have equivalent words which can be used before a noun:
They are doing experiments on live animals/animals which are alive.

predicative	<i>alive</i>	<i>afraid</i>	<i>alike</i>	<i>asleep</i>	<i>ill</i>
attributive	<i>live/living</i>	<i>frightened</i>	<i>similar</i>	<i>sleeping</i>	<i>sick</i>

21.1D We use adjectives after indefinite words like *something, anyone, no one, nothing, somewhere, etc.*:

Adjectives after nouns, pronouns, etc.
 ✗ ~~I'm looking for cheap something.~~
 ✓ *I'm looking for something cheap.*

Some adjectives, including some ending in *-able* and *-ible*, can follow a noun if the noun follows a superlative adjective or the *first/last/next/only*:

They say she's the oldest woman alive.
I'm afraid that's the last ticket available.

Adjectives that are followed by a prepositional phrase, e.g. *interested in something, suitable for somebody* (* 15.5D), go after, not before, a noun:

✗ ~~The project will appeal to interested in ecology students.~~
 ✓ *The project will appeal to students interested in ecology.*
 This is similar to a reduced relative clause (* 31.1G). We can also use a full relative clause with the adjective in predicative position (* 21.1C):
The project will appeal to students who are interested in ecology.

① Some adjectives have a different meaning when used before or after a noun:
The meeting was full of concerned residents. (= worried)
The students concerned were a small minority. (= who took part/were involved)
I'm afraid we have opposite points of view. (= contrasting)
We used to live in the house opposite. (= physically facing/across from us)
The present chairman is getting on a bit. (= current/existing now)
We took a vote of all members present. (= physically there)
Responsible parents have been outraged by this show. (= caring/conscientious)
 The person **responsible** will be caught and punished. (= who did the action)
 He gave us a **ridiculously involved** excuse. (= complicated)
 The president gave medals to all those **involved**. (= who took part)

KEY:

1 dependent 2 disabled 3 meteoric 4 faceless 5 hysterical 6 destructive 7 disagreeable 8 British 9 pointless 10 fertile 11 argumentative 12 unfashionable 13 plentiful 14 unbelievable 15 hopeless 16 horizontal 17 investigative 18 effective 19 laughable 20 Dutch
 2 1 A ✓ B ✗ 2 A ✓ B ✗ 3 A ✗ B ✓ 4 A ✓ B ✓ 5 A ✓ B ✗ 6 A ✓ B ✓ 7 A ✗ B ✓ 8 A ✗ B ✓ 9 A ✓ B ✗ 10 A ✗ B ✓ 11 A ✓ B ✓ 12 A ✓ B ✗ 13 A ✗ B ✓ 14 A ✓ B ✗ 15 A ✗ B ✓

4 1 The couple named their first daughter Samantha. 2 His Excellency expects visitors to stand when he arrives. 3 I wouldn't like to stay a legal assistant for long. 4 Amanda brought all her expertise to the team. 5 Amanda brought the team all her expertise.

5 1 - that - f (S) 2 - so - a (S) 3 - if - i (S) 4 - after - e (S) 5 - or - b (C) 6 - and - d (C) 7 - even though - c (S) 8 - than - g (S) 9 1 broke thousands → broke into thousands 2 ✓ 3 remain-to-be-tenants → remain tenants 4 appears some-mistake → appears to be some mistake 5 ✓ 6 recommended-book → recommended booking/recommended that you book 7 showed-to-their-gathered fans-their-trophy → showed their trophy to their gathered fans 8 explained-us-the-problem → explained the problem to us 9 tell-me-to-go? → tell me where to go? 10 placed-back-in-its-correct-position-the-gold-watch → placed the gold watch back in...

6 A very inexperienced salesman has become the Sales Manager. 7 He placed into the box the carefully wrapped, sparkling, diamond encrusted 18-carat gold ring. 8 Please put all rubbish in the bins provided. 9 Do your parents let you go to all-night parties? 10 The paratrooper carefully removed the pin from the grenade./removed the pin from the grenade carefully.