

Adjectives

Adjectives are a part of speech in traditional English grammar. Their main use is to describe things or bodies. They can function as modifiers within a noun phrase, as in:

It was an **easy** lecture. A **rapid** note was given. I heard **good** news. It was a **pneumonic** symptom.

Or, they can form an adjective phrase alone or accompanied with other modifiers or complements, as in:

It was very **nice** to join this group. He finds it **great**. It was **difficult** that I could not understand, I feel **happy** for him.

The adjective can be a derived one that ends in: **-ous** (famous, courageous), **-y** (faulty), **-ibile** or **-able** (possible, capable), **-ive** (active), **-ic** (iconic), **-ent** (permanent), **-ant** (important), **-ly** (daily), **al** (annual), **less** (useless), **ful** (useful), **en, ish** (childish). Or it can be not so, as in: certain, sure, pure, real, fond of, afraid of and alike.

Comparative and Superlative Degrees (Comparison):

Most adjectives can be used to make comparisons.

A- Between two things or persons or ideas (Comparative Degrees):

1- For most adjectives of one or two syllables, (-er) is added. For example:

Great -greater, fast -faster, strong -stronger. Good time- better time, big house- bigger house. Easy job- easier job.

The second experiment was easier than the first one.

2- For adjectives longer than two syllables, the word *more* is used. For example:
famous author- more famous author, difficult time- more difficult time.

It was more difficult than the first experiment.

He was more intelligent than his sister was.

B- Between more than two (superlative Degrees):

1- This is usually done by adding (-est) to the end of an adjective that is one or two syllables. For example:

loud -the loudest, cool -the coolest, smart -the smartest, happy- the happiest, Good time- the best time, big house- the biggest house, Easy job- the easiest job.

This experiment was the easiest one ever.

2- If an adjective is three syllables or longer, you must use the words *the most*. For example:

famous author- the most famous author,

difficult time- the most difficult time

This experiment was the most difficult one ever.

Katsu is the most intelligent person in the world!

In a family: elder (not older) is used (ex: he is the elder and I am the eldest)

Elder x younger.



WARNING- Never use both an *-er* ending and the word *more* or an *-est* ending and the word *most*. For example:

I am the **most happiest** when my students learn.

Instead, it should be: I am the **happiest** when my students learn.

There are some irregular adjective and adverb forms. For example:

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Adverb</u>	<u>Comparing two</u>	<u>Comparing more than 2</u>
<i>Bad</i>	<i>badly</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>worst</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>Well</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Best</i>
<i>Little</i>		<i>Less</i>	<i>Least</i>
<i>Much\many</i>		<i>More</i>	<i>Most</i>



Punctuation Note: Adjectives are not usually capitalized unless they are the first word in a sentence. **BUT**, nationalities are also adjectives and should be capitalized. For example:

Ricky Martin is Puerto Rican and Michelle Yeoh is Chinese.

These are called proper adjectives. And, like proper nouns, **proper adjectives** are always capitalized in English. They are derived from proper nouns and are words like: *African-American, Vietnamese, Latino, Italian, Japanese, Korean, etc.* They can also include adjectives like *Catholic, Jewish, Republican, Democrat, etc.* When they are used together, they are arranged in a certain order.

<u>Determiner</u>	<u>Opinion</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Noun</u>
<i>The\ This</i>	<i>Pretty</i>	<i>Big</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Puerto</i>	<i>Leather</i>	<i>Sofa</i>
<i>Some</i>	<i>Tall</i>	<i>Thin</i>	<i>Old</i>	<i>Purple</i>	<i>Rican</i>	<i>Wood</i>	
<i>My</i>	<i>Expensive</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Ancient</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Silk</i>	<i>Scarf</i>

For Example:

I saw *that tall, thin, old, blue, silk* scarf at the store and I bought it.

Leon drives an *expensive old Italian* car.