

# LESSON 9

## *Adjectives – Words That Describe Nouns*

- I Types of adjectives
- II Ways to form adjectives
- III Ways to use adjectives



*Intelligent and charming.*  
Though not tall  
Such is our Neha  
*Naughty*, but *sweet* like a doll.

Now listen to the story of what happened one day. Neha was immensely fond of the *big green* park which had *sweet* little *pink* and *white*, *blue* and *red* flowers scattered all over.

One *fine* morning after dressing for school, she quietly walked towards the park. How happy she was! After wandering about and playing the whole day long, when the evening shadows began to fall, Neha decided to come back home but lost her way. A policeman, who saw her, smelt some mischief and brought her to the police station. Poor Neha, she could do nothing but cry.

All the words in italics are adjectives so they describe persons, places and things. Make a list of these words

### Describing words

intelligent  
charming  
naughty  
sweet  
fine

### Nouns (persons, places and things) described

Neha  
Neha  
Neha  
Neha  
morning

poor	Neha
pink, white	flowers
blue, red	flowers
big	park
green	park

Now divide them into two groups:

Those telling facts	Those describing qualities, concepts
big	intelligent
green	charming
little	naughty
poor	sweet
tall	happy

## *(i) Types of adjectives*

### Adjectives telling facts

Study how the following fact-telling adjectives can be used to describe this table.



- i. The table is *rectangular* (shape).
- ii. It's *six feet by three feet* (size).
- iii. It looks quite *heavy*. (weight)
- iv. It's a *wooden* table. (what it's made of)
- v. Its colour is *brown*. (colour)

**We see that fact-telling adjectives describe aspects** such as shape, size, weight and colour. They can also tell us what material an object is made of.

## Adjectives expressing opinion

The italicized words in the sentences below are used to express an opinion or a concept which is abstract.

- i. This is not a *comfortable* bed.
- ii. It's a *beautiful* building.
- iii. The architecture is *impressive*.
- iv. The surroundings are green and *peaceful*.

## The position of an adjective in a sentence

Read these two sentences from the story:

- i. She was a nice girl.
- ii. She was very happy!

In both the sentences (i) and (ii) the words *nice* and *happy* are adjectives, describing Neha's qualities. Note that they are placed at different locations in the sentence.

In sentence (i) the adjective 'nice' is placed just before the noun 'girl'.

In sentence (ii) 'happy' is placed away from the noun which it is describing.

These two sentences show that adjectives can be placed in either position, away from the noun it is describing, or close to it.

Let's look at some examples

- |      |                          |                           |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| i.   | I have a big house.      | (used with the noun)      |
|      | My house is big.         | (used away from the noun) |
| ii.  | He uses the new bicycle. | (used with the noun)      |
|      | His bicycle is new.      | (used away from the noun) |
| iii. | This is a sad movie.     | (used with the noun)      |
|      | This movie is sad.       | (used away from the noun) |

### Exercise 1

Identify first the position of adjectives in the following sentences – close or distant from the noun– then rewrite these sentences using the adjectives in the above two ways.

- i. This is a very dirty shirt. ....
- ii. It's a very tall tree. ....
- iii. She has a magnificent house. ....

## Exercise 2

Complete the following sentences choosing suitable adjectives from the list (read aloud).

Mischievous  
Friendly  
Calm  
Naughty  
Quiet  
Charming  
Red



In this picture we can see a small family with a dog. The father is in \_\_\_\_\_ and the mother is in \_\_\_\_\_ dress. The boy, in the red cap, seems to be \_\_\_\_\_. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ smile. The mother appears to be \_\_\_\_\_. She is \_\_\_\_\_. The father appears to be \_\_\_\_\_ though \_\_\_\_\_.

## *(ii) Ways to form adjectives*

### Adjectives formed by adding 'ing' or 'ed':

Note that some words such as good, bad, black, white are used only as adjectives. Some words such as "interest" are not adjectives but they function as adjectives when we add the suffix -ed or -ing, to them. So, interest + ing= interesting (which is an adjective), and, interest + ed = interested. (again, an adjective)

She is an interesting girl.

She is interested in the story.

But remember that all words ending with 'ing' are NOT adjectives. Some of them are the forms of continuous verbs such as going, eating, etc. To check whether a word ending with 'ing' is a continuous verb or an adjective, try putting 'very' before the word. If the sentence makes sense, for example, "She is a very interesting girl", or, "The trek was very tiring" then the 'ing' word is an adjective. But, in a sentence like, 'The cow was eating grass', putting 'very' before 'eating' would result in a very odd sentence. It would read, 'The cow was very eating grass', which is clearly wrong! Here is another example. We can say 'She is a very charming girl.' (charming here is an adjective) but we cannot say 'She is very charming every one.' because 'charming' here is used as a verb. Many adjectives with 'ing' and 'ed' differ in meaning.

### Examples:

#### 1. Interest

- a) He is an interesting boy. (person drawing others' attention)
- b) He is interested in games. (person is interested in something)

#### 2. Satisfy

- a) The food is satisfying. (giving or bringing satisfaction)
- b) My hunger is satisfied. (feeling satisfied)

#### 3. Tire

- a) I had a tiring day. (causing fatigue)
- b) I was tired after working the whole day. (feeling tired)

#### 4. Confuse

- a) The whole situation is confusing. (causing confusion)
- b) Ravi is confused. (feeling confused)

#### 5. Promise

- a) The results of the experiment are promising. (showing signs of success)
- b) The police have promised to help us find the thief. (to make a promise)

#### 6. Excite

- a) The match was indeed exciting. (causing excitement)
- b) They are feeling excited about the match. (feeling excited)

#### 7. Care

- a) Some mothers are very caring. (taking care)
- b) He is well-cared for. (He has been given good care)

#### 8. Irritate

- a) Sonu's behaviour is very irritating. (causing irritation)
- b) Sonu is very irritated. (feeling irritated)

9. Face

- a) We will face a tough challenge when we reach the river. (confront)
- b) He has always faced problems at his workplace. (met with)

### Exercise 3

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the following : (Read them aloud again and again for practice).

Interest, satisfy, tire, confuse, promise, excite, care, irritate, face

- i. He is a very ..... father. His children are happy.
- ii. He is a well- ..... boy.
- iii. I avoid meeting Ramesh. He can be very .....
- iv. Don't talk to him. He is very ..... today.
- v. Mohan has done well in his exams and has a ..... career ahead.
- vi. He has..... to be a good boy.
- vii. I must look for a new job. I'm ..... of this place.
- viii. It was a very ..... journey.
- ix. His speech is very .....
- x. Don't be upset. He is a very ..... about his work.

### Assignment

Do the following exercises.

Frame similar sentences with other adjectives you know

Read them aloud again and again.

### Exercise 4

Choose the correct words and complete the sentences

- (i) She has an interesting / interested face.
- (ii) The teacher is interested / interesting in her students' activities.
- (iii) The house seems to be in a safe / safely area.
- (iv) He keeps the books safely / safe.

- (v) Dr. Rajendra Prasad was a brilliant / of brilliance man.
- (vi) The brilliance / brilliant of Einstein has no match.
- (vii) Hemant has a charming / charmed face.
- (viii) He was charmed / charming by the surroundings.
- (ix) Everyone liked the devoted / devotional songs.
- (x) She is devoted / devotional to the care of her pets.

## Comparative forms of adjectives

When we want to compare two or more than two objects, people or places, we can use three degrees of comparison.

For example: The fruits in the first shop were good. Those in the second shop were better but the fruits in the third are the best.

From the above examples it is clear that

1. The form of adjective is changed when comparison is made.
2. Adjectives have three degrees or forms. The positive degree is the lowest, the comparative is higher than the positive, while the superlative is the highest. Look at the following examples illustrating how adjectives change their forms when comparisons are made.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
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### *Monosyllabic words*

Old	Older	Oldest
Fast	Faster	Fastest
Cold	Colder	Coldest

### *Two or bi-syllabic ending in 'y'*

Mighty	Mightier	Mightiest
Busy	Busier	Busiest
Dry	Drier	Driest

### *Two or three or poly-syllabic*

Luxurious	More luxurious	Most luxurious
Serious	More serious	Most serious

Terrible	More terrible	Most terrible
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful
Comfortable	More comfortable	Most comfortable
Dutiful	More dutiful	Most dutiful

### *Irregular forms*

Bad	Worse	Worst
Good	Better	Best

## Superlative form of adjectives

The superlative form is the highest degree of comparison of an adjective. As in the following sentences the article 'the' is always used before the superlative form.

The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in the world.

The Shalimar gardens in Srinagar are the most beautiful gardens I have seen.

Bill Gates is probably the wealthiest person in the world today.

This chair is the costliest one.

## Practice how to compare

Step 1 Here are some sentences that describe a colony. Pick the ones that are true of your colony.

(The words in italics are adjectives)

It is *clean*.

The people are *friendly*.

It's a *safe* place to live in.

The houses are *large*.

The streets are *dirty*.

The gardens are very *tidy*.

Step 2 Now choose any other colony in your town and compare it with the other.

(use the comparative degree of the given words: safe, busy, beautiful, big)





My colony	The other colony
The streets are cleaner.	_____is dangerous
_____	_____
_____	_____

Step 3 Now frame sentences that compare the two colonies, using the word “than”.

For example,

My colony is better than any other because it is cleaner.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

**Study the following dialogue between** a customer and a salesman explaining which car in a showroom is better and why. Practice this conversation and develop your own conversations in other situations.

**Salesman:** Sir, among the smaller cars, I have Maruti 800 and Nano. You can choose between the two.

**Customer:** I think I'll buy the Nano because it's smaller and cheaper.

**Salesman:** But the Maruti is more spacious and has a more powerful engine.

**Customer:** That's true; still, for smaller families, the Nano is much better.

## Compound words used as adjectives

- Good-looking – Shahrukh Khan is a good-looking young man.
- Heart-breaking – The story was heart-breaking. Every one cried at the end
- Well-meant – Please don't misunderstand. What I said was well-meant.
- Ultra-modern – The kitchen was filled with ultra-modern gadgets.
- Life-saving – Drugs which are indispensable and save lives are called life-saving drugs
- Bird-watcher – Anand is a keen bird-watcher.
- Well-kept – Mrs. Singh is a very good cook and her house is well-kept too.
- Self-respect – No one with self-respect would want to live on someone else's earnings.

## Exercise 5

Rewrite the following sentences putting the given adjectives, single or compound in the right position:




- i. He is a boy. (young, smart) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. This is Madhu's house. (old, cozy) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Don't wear this dress again. (torn) \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. My friend's bungalow has a lawn. (green, large) \_\_\_\_\_
- v. The table shown in the catalogue is the one I have ordered. (round, black)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- vi. It is a good day. (weather wise) \_\_\_\_\_
- vii. It is a punishment. (lifelong) \_\_\_\_\_

viii. It is an important medicine. (life saving) \_\_\_\_\_

ix. It is an article. (well-written) \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 6

Insert the missing forms

	Big	Bigger	Biggest			
(i)	Fast					
(ii)	Deep					
(iii)	High					
(iv)	Dangerous					
(v)	Talkative					
(vi)	Wonderful					
(vii)	Good					
(viii)	Harmful					

Sheena

Teena



Compare us

Here are two friends. Compare their mouths, hair, complexions, etc. You can use the words big / small, dark / fair, tall / short, fat / thin, etc.

Example:

Sheena's neck is thin but Tina's is thinner./ Tina's neck is thinner than Tina's.

i.....

ii.....

iii.....

iv.....

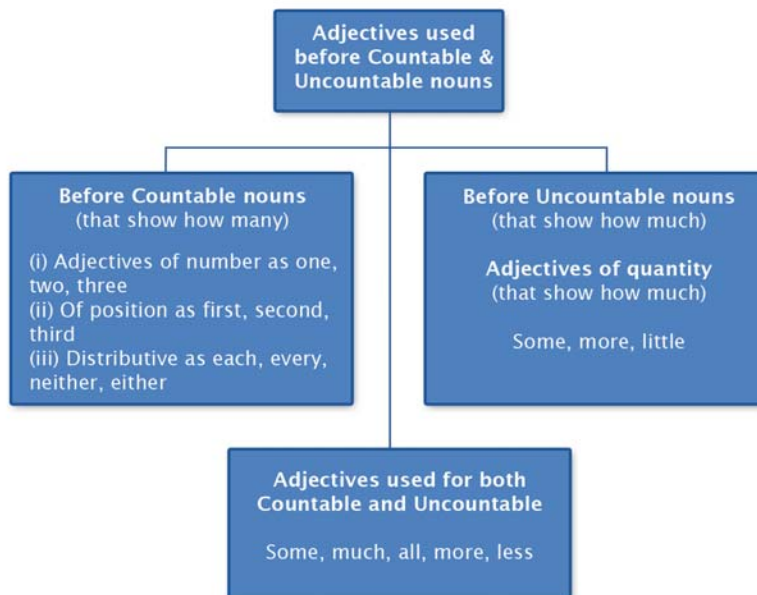
v.....

vi.....

vii.....

### *(iii) Ways to use adjectives*

#### How to use adjectives before countable and uncountable nouns



The following adjectives can be used both, as **adjectives of quantity and number**.

Some– Give me *some* more milk, please. (quantity)

*Some* boys decided to take the bus instead of walking all the way. (number)

Any– I can do *any* number of sums in algebra. (number)

Jyoti can drink *any* amount of milkshake. (quantity)

*Any* student can be called to the stage to sing. (number)

You can choose *any* seat you please. (number)

All– *All* the water in the tank is over. (quantity)

*All* the passengers are in the waiting-room. (number)

More– Please give me *more* water. (quantity)

Get *more* girls to help. (number)

## How to use little, a little, the little, few, a few, the few.

1. He is not good at studies. There is little hope that he will succeed.

2. The little money they were left with has been stolen.

3. The inspector had only a little money to spend.

(little – not much, hardly any; a little – some, not much; The little – all that there is)

4. Few girls can be trusted.

5. A few men are really always honest.

6. The few, who could be trusted, were not present.

7. There are few boys in class.

(Few – hardly any; 'few' has a negative meaning; a few – some; the few – not many, all that there are)

## Exercise 7

**Choose the suitable word from the given list and fill in the blanks.**

(many, several, half, various, any, some, much, less, few, any, much, half)

(i) I have ..... books in my room.

(ii) There are..... ways to write this answer.

(iii) I want..... sugar, please, in my tea.

- (iv) Some languages in the world have only a..... speakers left.
- (v) There weren't..... elephants in this year's Republic Day Parade.
- (vi) We do not have..... homework today.
- (vii) .....work will have to be put in if the stadium is to be completed this year.
- (viii) There wasn't as..... water as needed, in the tanks.
- (ix) Only..... the work had been done by the time the judges came around.
- (x) Give me the other .....of this apple.

**Note the errors in the following sentences and their correct forms**

<b>Incorrect</b>	<b>Correct</b>
(i) I want <u>several</u> papers.	I want several sheets of paper.
(ii) Kamal has <u>many</u> work to do.	Kamal has much work to do.
(iii) I have <u>few</u> money.	I have some/a little money.
(iv) Sheetal bought <u>much</u> crackers on Diwali.	Sheetal bought many crackers on Diwali.
(v) I ate <u>few</u> rice even though I was very hungry.	I ate only some rice even though I was very hungry.
(vi) No <u>any</u> man has been to this forest before.	No man has been to this forest before.

## Assignment

Frame as many meaningful sentences as you can by combining words from each column of the following table.

Here is	a few	boys	in the school
Here are	few	girls	near the house
We have	little	fruits	under the bed
Do we have	a little	work	in the can
There isn't	several	men/women	on the stool
Are there	any	water	in the field
Give me	some	milk	on the table
There are	much	cows	in bottle

## Answers to Exercise 1

- i. The shirt is very dirty.
- ii. The tree is very tall.
- iii. Her house is magnificent .

## Answers to Exercise 2

In this picture we can see a small family with a dog. The father is in blue and the mother is in red dress. The boy, in the red cap, seems to be naughty. He has a mischievous smile. The mother appears to be quiet. She is charming. The father appears to be friendly though calm.

## Answers to Exercise 3

(i) caring (ii) cared (iii) irritating (iv) irritated (v) promising (vi) promised (vii) tired of (viii) tiring (ix) exciting (x) excited

## Answers to Exercise 4

(i) interesting (ii) interested (iii) safe (iv) safely (v) brilliant (vi) brilliance (vii) charming (viii) charmed (ix) devotional (x) devoted

## Answers to Exercise 5

(i) smart young boy or a young and smart boy (ii) old cozy house (iii) torn dress again (iv) has a large green lawn (v) round black table (vi) Weather wise it is a good day OR It is a good day weather wise (vii) lifelong punishment (viii) life-saving medicine (ix) a well-written article.

### Answers to Exercise 6

(i) faster, fastest (ii) deeper, deepest (iii) higher, highest (iv) more dangerous, most dangerous (v) more talkative, most talkative (vi) more wonderful, most wonderful (vii) better, best (viii) more harmful, most harmful.

### Answers to Exercise 7

(i) few / many / several / some (ii) various (iii) less (iv) a few (v) any (vi) any (vii) much (viii) as much (ix) half (x) half.