

Adjectives and Adverbs



Theme: One of a Kind Following the Clues

Can you find the particular goblet that this treasure hunter has been seeking? Use the words listed on the treasure map to learn what makes this goblet different from the others.

What makes something one of a kind? To explain why something is unique, you would need to describe it by answering questions like *what kind*, *which one*, and *to what extent*. Words that do this are called **adjectives** and **adverbs**.

Write Away: One of a Kind

Pick another object in the treasure box. Write a description of the object without naming it. Be sure your description is so complete that someone could find the object you have in mind. Save the paragraph in your **Working Portfolio**.

Diagnostic Test: What Do You Know?

For each numbered item, choose the letter of the term that identifies it.

In 1926 Benny Benson was in ⁽¹⁾seventh grade. Benny's ethnic background was a combination of ⁽²⁾Aleutian, Russian, and Swedish ancestry. The teenager decided to enter a contest to create a design for the territory of Alaska. The contest asked people to make a design that would fit ⁽³⁾artistically on a flag. Benny Benson was ⁽⁴⁾shy. He loved nature and looking at the stars. All these things came ⁽⁵⁾together, and he began ⁽⁶⁾very quickly to sketch his design. He wrote, "The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaska flower." Benny ⁽⁷⁾also explained that the big star showed Alaska's future as the ⁽⁸⁾most northern state. Both houses of the Alaska legislature voted ⁽⁹⁾unanimously to accept this design for the flag. No one stood ⁽¹⁰⁾more proudly than Benny Benson the day his flag was first raised outside his school.

1. A. adjective
B. predicate adjective
C. adverb
D. intensifier
2. A. proper adjectives
B. demonstrative pronouns
C. predicate adjectives
D. comparative adjectives
3. A. adverb telling when
B. adverb telling where
C. adverb telling how
D. adverb telling to what extent
4. A. demonstrative pronoun
B. comparative adjective
C. predicate adjective
D. proper adjective
5. A. adverb modifying *things*
B. adverb modifying *All*
C. adjective modifying *things*
D. adverb modifying *came*
6. A. adverb modifying adjective
B. adverb modifying adverb
C. adverb modifying verb
D. adjective modifying pronoun
7. A. adverb modifying verb
B. adverb modifying adverb
C. adverb modifying adjective
D. adjective modifying noun
8. A. superlative adjective
B. superlative adverb
C. comparative adjective
D. comparative adverb
9. A. adjective
B. adverb modifying verb
C. adverb modifying adjective
D. adverb modifying adverb
10. A. comparative adjective
B. comparative adverb
C. superlative adjective
D. superlative adverb

What Is an Adjective?

1 Here's the Idea

► An adjective is a word that modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun.

MODIFIES MODIFIES
Extraordinary weather can cause **strange** events.
 ADJECTIVE NOUN ADJECTIVE NOUN

Adjectives help you see, feel, taste, hear, and smell all the experiences you read about. Notice how adjectives make the second sentence in this pair more descriptive.

During a storm, a boat capsized in the waves.

During a **violent** storm, a **large** boat capsized in the **enormous** waves.

Adjectives answer the questions *what kind*, *which one*, *how many*, and *how much*.

Adjectives

What kind?	a sudden blizzard	a brisk wind	a destructive flood
Which one or ones?	the first warning	the Mexican earthquake	the last weather report
How many or how much?	several tornadoes	a few drifts	more ice

What kind? a **deadly** storm

Which one? the **worst** storm of the decade

How many? **three** men



Articles

The most commonly used adjectives are the **articles** *a*, *an*, and *the*. *A* and *an* are forms of the **indefinite article**. The indefinite article is used before a noun that names an unspecified person, place, thing, or idea.

A weather radar can predict **an** unusual storm.

↑ INDEFINITE ARTICLE

↑ INDEFINITE ARTICLE

Use *a* before a word beginning with a consonant sound ("a ball"); use *an* before a word beginning with a vowel sound ("an egg").

The is the **definite article**. It points to a particular person, place, thing, or idea.

The six-o'clock news predicted **the** tornado.

↑ DEFINITE ARTICLE

↑ DEFINITE ARTICLE

Proper Adjectives

Many adjectives are formed from common nouns.

Nouns and Adjectives

Common Noun	Common Adjective
cloud	cloudy
nation	national
statue	statuesque
friend	friendly

A **proper adjective** is formed from a proper noun. Proper adjectives are always capitalized.

Proper Nouns and Proper Adjectives

Proper Noun	Proper Adjective
Honduras	Honduran
Olympus	Olympian
North America	North American
(Queen) Elizabeth	Elizabethan

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Fiction writers use adjectives to supply important details that help set a scene and provide background for a story.

LITERARY MODEL

It was a **dark autumn** night. The **old** banker was pacing from corner to corner of his study, recalling to his mind the party he gave in the autumn **fifteen** years ago. There were many **clever** people at the party and much **interesting** conversation. They talked among **other** things of **capital** punishment.

—Anton Chekhov, "The Bet"

3 Practice and Apply

CONCEPT CHECK: What Is an Adjective?

Write each adjective in these sentences, along with the noun or pronoun it modifies. Do not include articles.

How Strong Was It?

1. Scientists are amazed by the terrific power of a tornado.
2. The circular winds in strong tornadoes cause more damage than winds in other storms of a similar size.
3. Large hailstones often accompany a typical tornado.
4. One hailstone weighed two pounds, or about one kilogram.
5. It fell in the small Kansan town of Coffeyville.
6. A Chinese newspaper reported a rain of monstrous hailstones that killed a hundred people.
7. Tornadoes can drive large pieces of timber into thick walls.
8. A tornado hit the Midwestern town of Coralville.
9. The winds carried a heavy mechanical part a long way through the air.
10. Another tornado in 1875 carried a metal coop four miles.

➔ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 331.



Write and label the proper adjectives in your answers above. For each proper adjective, write the proper noun from which it is formed.

Predicate Adjectives

1 Here's the Idea

- ▶ A predicate adjective is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes the verb's subject. The linking verb connects the predicate adjective with the subject.

DESCRIBES
Some people are **extraordinary**.
SUBJECT LINKING VERB

DESCRIBE
They are very **energetic** or **calm**.

Predicate adjectives can follow linking verbs other than forms of *be*. Forms of *taste*, *smell*, *feel*, *look*, *become*, and *seem* are often used as linking verbs.

DESCRIBES
You usually **feel lucky** to know such a person.
LINKING VERB PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

ADJ. & ADV.

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Writers often use predicate adjectives to supply key details about characters. Notice how predicate adjectives capture in just a few words the personality and appearance of this writer's teacher.

PROFESSIONAL MODEL

Miss Bindle . . . was **tiny**, **scrawny**, and **fierce**, with an eighty-year-old face and twenty-year-old red hair. . .

Miss Bindle was extremely **short**, only about half the size of some of the larger boys. When Miss Bindle grabbed them by the hair and took off for the office, they had to trail along behind her in a bent-over posture. . .

—Patrick F. McManus, "The Clown"

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Predicate Adjectives

Write each predicate adjective in these sentences, along with the noun or pronoun it modifies. There may be more than one predicate adjective in a sentence.

Barreling Along!

1. Anna Edson Taylor was brave.
2. She grew certain that she could achieve fame by trying a dangerous feat.
3. Taylor had been a teacher, but she was now financially independent.
4. She felt eager to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.
5. Her barrel was wooden and contained a rubber hose so that she could breathe.
6. According to the press, Taylor was "intelligent and venturesome."
7. When the barrel reached the edge of the falls, it appeared motionless for a moment.
8. After the plunge, the wait for the appearance of the barrel seemed endless.
9. Meanwhile, the daredevil herself was unconscious.
10. As the only woman survivor of a plunge over Niagara Falls, Anna Taylor remains unique.

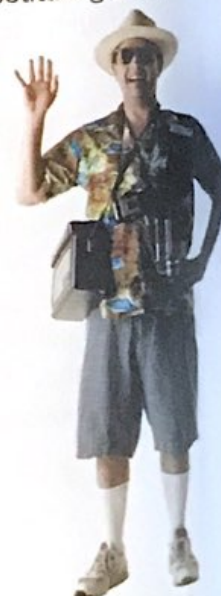
→ For a **SELF-CHECK** and more practice, see the **EXERCISE BANK**, p. 331.



Rewrite five of the sentences above by substituting a new predicate adjective.

B. WRITING: Creating a Character Description

Describe a person who you think is one of a kind. Use predicate adjectives and linking verbs in your description.



Other Words Used as Adjectives

1 Here's the Idea

In addition to their usual uses, many pronouns and nouns can be used as adjectives. They can modify nouns to make their meanings more specific.

Pronouns as Adjectives

Demonstrative Pronouns *This, that, these, and those* are demonstrative pronouns that can be used as adjectives.



MODIFIES

This fingerprint is a loop.

MODIFIES

That fingerprint is a whorl.



Possessive Pronouns *My, our, your, her, his, its, and their* are possessive pronouns that are used as adjectives.

MODIFIES

My thumbprint is a double loop, but **your** thumbprint is a tented arch.

MODIFIES



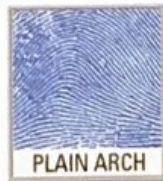
Indefinite Pronouns Indefinite pronouns such as *all, each, both, few, most, and some* can be used as adjectives.

MODIFIES

All fingerprints fit one of seven patterns.

MODIFIES

But **each** fingerprint is unique.



Nouns as Adjectives

Like pronouns, nouns can be used as adjectives. In the expression “crime story,” for example, the word *crime* (normally a noun) is used to modify *story*. Notice the examples of nouns used as adjectives in the sentences below.

MODIFIES

The **fingerprint** evidence convicted the murderer.

MODIFIES

She was convicted on **murder** charges.

2 Why It Matters in Writing

By using nouns as adjectives, writers can convey a lot of descriptive information in a single word. Notice how much information is contained in the nouns used as adjectives in the passage below.

LITERARY MODEL

The country is India. A large **dinner** party is being given in an **up-country** station by a colonial official and his wife. The guests are **army** officers and **government** attachés and their wives, and an American naturalist.

—Mona Gardner, “The Dinner Party”



Dinner at Haddo House (1884), Alfred Edward Emile, National Portrait Gallery, London.

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Other Words Used as Adjectives

Write each noun or pronoun that is used as an adjective in these sentences, along with the word it modifies.

Don't Touch!

1. Why do your fingerprints leave their marks on objects?
2. The fingers have skin ridges on their surface.
3. These ridges are coated with both sweat and body oil.
4. When a criminal touches a surface with his fingers, these ridges leave an impression.
5. These impressions are often not visible to the human eye.
6. But detectives in a crime investigation use special chemicals to reveal those fingerprints.
7. Police can also reveal these clues by using laser light.
8. The first criminal convicted on fingerprint evidence was Alfred Stratton.
9. He left his fingerprint on a cash box at the crime scene.
10. Many criminals do not make this mistake anymore, because they wear latex gloves.

→ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 332.



Write five sentences using nouns as adjectives and five sentences using pronouns as adjectives.

B. REVISING: Using Nouns as Adjectives

Make this e-mail message more detailed by adding a noun from the list below to modify each of the nouns in boldface type.

city super-sleuth ridge foot-sole leather body

E-mail

New Memo Delete File Forward Reply

Dear Ally,

I just learned that fingerprints are not the only **markings** that distinguish us. Did you know that the **patterns** on our **skin** are unique also? So don't take off your **shoes** the next time you rob the **bank**! Remember, the police have **methods** to catch you!

Love, Lakeisha