

15/09/2025

Adjectives



KA-CONSULTANTS LTD.
Do you have the drive to learn?

WWW.KA-CONSULTANTS.COM

Adjectives in the English Language

Adjectives are words that describe or modify nouns and pronouns, providing more information about them. They can describe qualities, quantity, number, ownership, and more. In English grammar, adjectives are categorised into several kinds depending on their function and meaning. This document provides a detailed overview of the main types of adjectives, their definitions, examples, and usage notes.

Type of Adjective	Definition	Examples	Notes on Use
Descriptive (Qualitative) Adjectives	Describe the qualities or features of a noun or pronoun, such as size, colour, shape, or character.	tall building; beautiful garden; red dress; intelligent student	The most common type of adjective. Used to describe qualities.
Quantitative Adjectives	Express quantity or amount of something.	some water; many books; few opportunities; several houses	Answer the question 'How much?' or 'How many?'. Often used with uncountable and countable nouns.
Numeral Adjectives	Show number, order, or sequence.	one apple; two cars; first prize; second attempt	Divided into cardinal (one, two, three), ordinal (first, second, third), and multiplicative (single, double).
Demonstrative Adjectives	Point out specific nouns.	this book; that car; these shoes; those houses	Always followed by the noun they modify. Used to indicate proximity or distance.
Possessive Adjectives	Show ownership or possession.	my pen; your bag; his book; our house	Always come before a noun. Do not take an apostrophe.
Interrogative Adjectives	Used with nouns to ask questions.	which colour; what time; whose book	Always followed by a noun. Found in

			direct or indirect questions.
Distributive Adjectives	Refer to members of a group individually, rather than collectively.	each student; every person; either option; neither answer	Used with singular nouns, though they imply more than one.
Proper Adjectives	Formed from proper nouns to show origin, nationality, or association.	British culture, Victorian style, Shakespearean play	Always capitalised because they derive from proper nouns.
Compound Adjectives	Formed by combining two or more words to modify a noun.	well-known actor; high-speed train; full-length movie	Often joined by hyphens. Treated as a single adjective.
Articles (sometimes considered adjectives)	The words 'a, an, and the' are sometimes classified as adjectives as they modify nouns by specifying definiteness.	a book; an apple; the teacher	More commonly taught as articles, but can be considered adjectives in traditional grammar.

Adjectives of Personality (ESOL Level 1 & CEFR B2)

Adjective	Definition	Example Sentence	Comparative	Superlative
kind	friendly and generous	She is very kind to her neighbours.	kinder	kindest
friendly	pleasant and welcoming to others	The receptionist was friendly.	friendlier	friendliest
helpful	willing to help others	The shop assistant was helpful.	more helpful	most helpful
polite	showing good manners	He is always polite to strangers.	politer	politest
honest	telling the truth	She gave an honest answer.	more honest	most honest
shy	nervous around people	The boy is too shy to speak.	shyer	shyest
quiet	not speaking much	He is a quiet student in class.	quieter	quietest
lazy	not liking work	He is too lazy to clean his room.	lazier	laziest
funny	making people laugh	She told a funny story.	funnier	funniest
clever	quick to learn or understand	That was a clever answer.	cleverer	cleverest
rude	not polite	It was rude to interrupt.	ruder	rudest
serious	not joking or laughing	She looked serious during the test.	more serious	most serious
hard-working	putting in effort at work or study	She is a hard-working student.	more hard-working	most hard-working
confident	sure of oneself	He felt confident before the exam.	more confident	most confident
patient	able to wait calmly	You need to be patient with children.	more patient	most patient

nice	pleasant and kind	She is a nice teacher.	nicer	nicest
mean	unkind or not generous	He is mean to his classmates.	meaner	meanest
good	having good qualities	She is a good friend.	better	best
bad	not good	It was a bad idea.	worse	worst
angry	feeling upset or mad	He was angry after the match.	angrier	angriest
happy	feeling good and pleased	They were happy to see each other.	happier	happiest
sad	feeling unhappy	She felt sad after watching the film.	sadder	saddest
brave	not afraid of danger	The firefighter was brave.	braver	bravest
silly	not sensible	That was a silly mistake.	sillier	silliest
talkative	liking to talk a lot	He is very talkative in class.	more talkative	most talkative
lucky	having good fortune	She is lucky to have such friends.	luckier	luckiest
calm	quiet and relaxed	Stay calm during the test.	calmer	calmest
strong	having power	He is strong enough to lift the box.	stronger	strongest
weak	not strong	He was too weak to carry it.	weaker	weakest
ambitious	wanting to achieve success	She is ambitious about her career.	more ambitious	most ambitious
reliable	able to be trusted	He is a reliable friend.	more reliable	most reliable
sensitive	easily affected by feelings	She is sensitive to criticism.	more sensitive	most sensitive
sociable	enjoying being with others	He is sociable and enjoys parties.	more sociable	most sociable

generous	willing to give or share	She is generous with her money.	more generous	most generous
cheerful	happy and positive	He is always cheerful in the morning.	more cheerful	most cheerful
stubborn	not willing to change	She is stubborn about her opinions.	more stubborn	most stubborn
independent	not needing others' help	He is independent in his work.	more independent	most independent
moody	changing emotions quickly	She is moody in the mornings.	moodier	moodiest
thoughtful	showing care for others	He is thoughtful towards his family.	more thoughtful	most thoughtful
creative	able to make new ideas	She is creative in her writing.	more creative	most creative
responsible	able to take duty	He is responsible for the project.	more responsible	most responsible
arrogant	thinking you are better than others	He sounded arrogant in the meeting.	more arrogant	most arrogant
supportive	giving help or encouragement	She was supportive during his illness.	more supportive	most supportive
open-minded	willing to consider new ideas	He is open-minded about culture.	more open-minded	most open-minded
cautious	careful to avoid risk	He is cautious when investing.	more cautious	most cautious
determined	showing strong will	She is determined to succeed.	more determined	most determined
humorous	funny and amusing	He gave a humorous speech.	more humorous	most humorous
dependable	trustworthy and reliable	She is a dependable worker.	more dependable	most dependable
modest	not proud of achievements	He is modest about his success.	more modest	most modest

pessimistic	expecting bad outcomes	She is pessimistic about the future.	more pessimistic	most pessimistic
optimistic	expecting good outcomes	He is optimistic about the result.	more optimistic	most optimistic
jealous	unhappy because of another's success	He was jealous of his brother.	more jealous	most jealous
tolerant	accepting different views	She is tolerant of other cultures.	more tolerant	most tolerant
diplomatic	skilful in dealing with people	He is diplomatic in conflicts.	more diplomatic	most diplomatic
resourceful	good at solving problems	She is resourceful in difficult times.	more resourceful	most resourceful
spontaneous	doing things naturally without planning	They made a spontaneous decision to travel.	more spontaneous	most spontaneous
considerate	thinking of others' needs	He is considerate of his neighbours.	more considerate	most considerate
conscientious	working carefully and responsibly	She is conscientious in her studies.	more conscientious	most conscientious

Adjectives of Appearance (ESOL Level 1 & CEFR B2)

Adjective	Definition	Example Sentence	Comparative	Superlative
tall	having a greater height	She is tall compared to her classmates.	taller	tallest
short	having little height	He is short but very strong.	shorter	shortest
big	large in size	They live in a big house.	bigger	biggest
small	not large	She has small hands.	smaller	smallest
thin	having little body fat	The cat looks thin.	thinner	thinnest
fat	weighing a lot	The dog is fat after eating too much.	fatter	fattest
slim	attractively thin	She is slim and healthy.	slimmer	slimmest
young	not old	The young girl is playing in the park.	younger	youngest
old	having lived many years	He is an old man.	older	oldest
pretty	pleasant to look at	The flowers are pretty.	prettier	prettiest
beautiful	very attractive	She is a beautiful woman.	more beautiful	most beautiful
ugly	not attractive	The monster looks ugly.	uglier	ugliest
handsome	good-looking (for men)	He is a handsome actor.	more handsome	most handsome
clean	free from dirt	His shirt is clean.	cleaner	cleanest
dirty	not clean	Your shoes are dirty.	dirtier	dirtiest
long	having great length	She has long hair.	longer	longest

short-haired	having short hair	The boy is short-haired.	more short-haired	most short-haired
curly-haired	having curly hair	She is curly-haired.	more curly-haired	most curly-haired
straight-haired	having straight hair	He is straight-haired.	more straight-haired	most straight-haired
blond	having light yellow hair	She is a blonde child.	blonder	blondest
dark-haired	having dark hair	He is dark-haired.	more dark-haired	most dark-haired
strong	having physical power	The man is strong.	stronger	strongest
weak	lacking physical strength	The boy is weak after an illness.	weaker	weakest
fat-faced	having a round, plump face	The baby is fat-faced.	more fat-faced	most fat-faced
thin-faced	having a narrow face	She is thin-faced.	more thin-faced	most thin-faced
red-haired	having red hair	He is red-haired.	more red-haired	most red-haired
bearded	having a beard	The man is bearded.	more bearded	most bearded
moustached	having a moustache	He is moustached.	more moustached	most moustached
neat	tidy and well-groomed	She looks neat today.	neater	neatest
messy	not tidy	His hair looks messy.	messier	messiest
athletic	fit and strong body	She has an athletic figure.	more athletic	most athletic
elegant	graceful and stylish	The actress looked elegant in her gown.	more elegant	most elegant
graceful	showing beauty of movement	The dancer was graceful.	more graceful	most graceful
attractive	pleasant in appearance	He is an attractive young man.	more attractive	most attractive

plain	ordinary in appearance	She wore a plain dress.	plainer	plainest
overweight	heavier than is healthy	He became overweight after the holidays.	more overweight	most overweight
well-built	having a strong, solid body	He is well-built and tall.	more well-built	most well-built
chubby	slightly fat in a pleasant way	The child was chubby.	chubbier	chubbiest
wrinkled	having lines on the skin from age	His face is wrinkled.	more wrinkled	most wrinkled
pale	having little colour in the skin	She looked pale after the illness.	paler	palest
tanned	having brown skin from the sun	He looked tanned after the holiday.	more tanned	most tanned
glamorous	beautiful and fashionable	She looked glamorous at the party.	more glamorous	most glamorous
scruffy	untidy or dirty in appearance	He wore scruffy clothes.	scruffier	scruffiest
stylish	fashionable and elegant	She is stylish in her dress.	more stylish	most stylish
well-dressed	wearing smart and attractive clothes	He is always well-dressed.	more well-dressed	most well-dressed
immaculate	perfectly clean and neat	Her appearance was immaculate.	more immaculate	most immaculate
dapper	neat and stylish (usually for men)	He looked dapper in his suit.	more dapper	most dapper
slender	thin in an attractive way	She has a slender figure.	slenderer	slenderest
stocky	short and strong in build	The man was stocky.	stockier	stockiest

broad-shouldered	having wide shoulders	He is broad-shouldered.	more broad-shouldered	most broad-shouldered
striking	very noticeable and impressive	Her beauty is striking.	more striking	most striking
charming	pleasant and attractive	He gave a charming smile.	more charming	most charming
distinguished	looking important and respected	The professor had a distinguished look.	more distinguished	most distinguished
shapely	having an attractive body shape	She has a shapely figure.	more shapely	most shapely
fair-haired	having light-coloured hair	He is a fair-haired boy.	more fair-haired	most fair-haired
muscular	having strong muscles	He is a muscular athlete.	more muscular	most muscular
delicate	looking fine and fragile	She has a delicate face.	more delicate	most delicate
sunburned	having red skin from too much sun	He was sunburned after the beach trip.	more sunburned	most sunburned
well-groomed	looking neat and carefully dressed	She is well-groomed for the interview.	more well-groomed	most well-groomed
radiant	looking very bright and beautiful	The bride looked radiant.	more radiant	most radiant

Adjectives of Place (ESOL Level 1 & CEFR B2)

Adjective	Definition	Example Sentence	Comparative	Superlative
near	close by	The shop is near my house.	nearer	nearest
far	a long distance away	The station is far from here.	farther	farthest
high	a large distance above the ground	The wall is high.	higher	highest
low	not high above the ground	The bench is low.	lower	lowest
big	large in size	It is a big park.	bigger	biggest
small	not large	They live in a small flat.	smaller	smallest
wide	large from side to side	The river is wide here.	wider	widest
narrow	not wide	The street is narrow.	narrower	narrowest
long	great in length	It is a long road.	longer	longest
short	not long	This is a short path.	shorter	shortest
open	not closed or covered	The square is open to the public.	more open	most open
closed	not open	The gate is closed at night.	more closed	most closed
busy	full of people or activity	The market is busy today.	busier	busiest
quiet	without much noise	It is a quiet village.	quieter	quietest
clean	free from dirt	The park is clean.	cleaner	Cleanest
dirty	not clean	The street looks dirty.	dirtier	dirtiest

modern	new and up-to-date	The building is modern.	more modern	most modern
old	built a long time ago	This is an old town.	older	oldest
dark	without much light	The alley is dark.	darker	darkest
bright	full of light	The room is bright.	brighter	brightest
safe	not dangerous	The park is safe for children.	safer	safest
dangerous	likely to cause harm	That road is dangerous.	more dangerous	most dangerous
crowded	full of people	The bus is crowded.	more crowded	most crowded
empty	not containing people	The hall is empty.	emptier	emptiest
quiet	peaceful, without noise	It is a quiet garden.	quieter	quietest
busy	full of movement	The street is busy at 5 pm.	busier	busiest
green	covered with plants or grass	It is a green field.	greener	greenest
grey	lacking colour, dull	It was a grey city.	greyer	greyest
nearby	not far away	There is a shop nearby.	more nearby	most nearby
local	belonging to a particular area	This is the local park.	more local	most local
remote	far away from towns or cities	They live in a remote village.	remoter	remotest
urban	relating to a city	This is an urban area.	more urban	most urban
rural	relating to the countryside	She grew up in a rural community.	more rural	most rural
central	in the middle of an area	The hotel is in a central location.	more central	most central

coastal	near the sea	The coastal town is busy in summer.	more coastal	most coastal
mountainous	full of mountains	They live in a mountainous region.	more mountainous	most mountainous
isolated	far from other places	The island is isolated from the mainland.	more isolated	most isolated
industrial	with many factories	It is an industrial area.	more industrial	most industrial
residential	where people live	It is a residential street.	more residential	most residential
suburban	relating to the outskirts of a city	They moved to a suburban house.	more suburban	most suburban
picturesque	visually attractive, like a painting	The village is picturesque.	more picturesque	most picturesque
spacious	large and with plenty of room	The hall is spacious.	more spacious	most spacious
compact	small and efficient in space	The town centre is compact.	more compact	most compact
bustling	full of activity and movement	The market is bustling.	more bustling	most bustling
deserted	with no people	The street was deserted at night.	more deserted	most deserted
historic	important in history	This is a historic building.	more historic	most historic
ancient	very old	They visited an ancient castle.	more ancient	most ancient
modernist	relating to modern style	The museum has a modernist design.	more modernist	most modernist
notable	worthy of attention	It is a notable landmark.	more notable	most notable

remote-controlled	able to be managed from a distance	They stayed in a remote-controlled resort.	more remote-controlled	most remote-controlled
cosy	comfortable and warm	They stayed in a cosy cottage.	cosier	cosiest
bleak	cold and unattractive	The landscape was bleak in winter.	bleaker	bleakest
lively	full of life and activity	It is a lively square.	livelier	liveliest
tranquil	calm and peaceful	The lake was tranquil.	more tranquil	most tranquil
remote-looking	appearing far away	The hills had a remote-looking charm.	more remote-looking	most remote-looking
crowded	full of people	The square was crowded.	more crowded	most crowded
desolate	empty and without hope	The desolate village lay in ruins.	more desolate	most desolate
thriving	developing successfully	It is a thriving town.	more thriving	most thriving
vibrant	full of energy and life	London is a vibrant city.	more vibrant	most vibrant
remotely-accessible	can be reached from far away	The region is remotely accessible.	more remote-accessible	most remote-accessible