

# IELTS Narayananj

## PRE-IELTS:Adjective

### What Is an Adjective?

An adjective is a part of speech that can be used to describe or provide more information about a noun or pronoun that acts as the subject in a sentence. Adjectives are found after the verb or before the noun it modifies. It is a word that modifies or qualifies a noun or pronoun by describing, identifying, or quantifying it. Adjectives provide detailed information about the noun they describe, including appearance, number, size, shape, quality, quantity, or condition.

### Definition of an Adjective

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, an adjective is defined as “a word that describes a noun or pronoun.” The Collins Dictionary gives a more elaborate definition. According to it, “an adjective is a word such as ‘big’, ‘dead’, or ‘financial’ that describes a person or thing, or gives extra information about them. Adjectives usually come before nouns or after link verbs.”

The Oxford Learner’s Dictionary defines an adjective as “a word that describes a person or thing, for example ‘big’, ‘red’ and ‘clever’ in a *big house*, *red wine* and a *clever idea*.” An adjective is “a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of numerous languages and typically serving as a modifier of a noun to denote a quality of the thing named, to indicate its quantity or extent, or to specify a thing as distinct from something else”, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

### Examples:

The cheerful boy is playing.

I found an ancient artifact.

She gave me five apples.

### Types of Adjectives

Adjectives can be divided into different categories based on their functions when used in a sentence. The different types of adjectives are:

#### 1. Descriptive Adjectives

These adjectives express the quality, kind, or state of a noun. They provide a vivid or specific image of the object in question.

### Examples:

The breathtakingly beautiful sunset painted the horizon with hues of orange and pink.

The ancient, crumbling ruins of the castle told stories of forgotten battles and kingdoms.

She has a meticulous approach to her creative, innovative design projects.

## 2. Quantitative Adjectives

These adjectives specify the amount or quantity of a noun and answer questions like How much? or How many?

### Examples:

He donated all his money to charity, leaving not a single coin for himself.

The recipe calls for sufficient flour to form a soft but firm dough.

After an exhausting trek, we had only a little water left in the bottle.

## 3. Numerical Adjectives

Numerical adjectives deal with the exact or approximate number of nouns. These express numbers, either definite or indefinite.

**Definite Numeral Adjectives:** one, two, first, second

I bought two books. She was the first person to arrive.

**Indefinite Numeral Adjectives:** many, few, several

There are many reasons to visit that place

### Examples:

She has read the first three chapters of the book and plans to finish the remaining seven tomorrow.

Among the several options available, only two seemed viable for immediate implementation.

The orchestra consisted of thirty skilled musicians and a single, brilliant conductor.

## 4. Demonstrative Adjectives:

Demonstrative adjectives are mainly used to describe the position of a subject (a noun or pronoun) in space or time. This, that, these and those are the demonstrative adjectives in English. These adjectives point to specific nouns and answer the question Which one(s)?

### Examples:

That elaborate painting on the wall is an original piece by a renowned artist.

These intricate blueprints will be critical for constructing the state-of-the-art skyscraper.

I can't forget those nostalgic childhood days spent in the countryside.

## 5. Possessive Adjectives:

These adjectives are used to show or represent possession of a quality. For example: my, your, his, her, their, its, whose, etc. Possessive adjectives show ownership or possession.

### Examples:

Her relentless dedication to her research earned her international recognition.

My neighbor's garden, with its vibrant flowers and lush greenery, is the envy of the entire neighborhood.

Their decision to relocate was influenced by a desire for a better lifestyle.

## **6. Interrogative Adjectives:**

An adjective that is used to modify a noun or a pronoun by asking a question is called an interrogative adjective. There are only a few adjectives that can be termed as interrogative adjectives. They are whose, what and which. These adjectives are used to ask questions and always modify a noun.

### **Examples:**

Which innovative solution do you propose for addressing climate change?

Whose brilliant idea was it to transform the old warehouse into a vibrant community space?

What compelling evidence do you have to support your argument?

## **7. Distributive Adjectives**

These adjectives refer to each individual member of a group and are used to emphasize individuality.

### **Examples:**

Each participant in the marathon was given a unique medal as a token of appreciation.

Every corner of the vast library held books brimming with stories, knowledge, and history.

Neither proposal met the stringent criteria required for funding approval.

## **8. Proper Adjectives**

Derived from proper nouns, these adjectives indicate origin, affiliation, or identity.

### **Examples:**

The intricate carvings on the Indian temple were a testament to its rich cultural heritage.

The Shakespearean play performed at the theater left the audience mesmerized by its timeless themes.

She enjoys exploring French cuisine, especially its delicate pastries and savory dishes.

## **9. Compound Adjectives:**

Compound adjectives consist of two or more adjectives that are combined together to form an adjective that can be used to modify the subject. Some examples of compound adjectives are cotton-tailed, curly-haired, absent-minded, happy-go-lucky, etc. These are made up of two or more words joined by a hyphen to function as a single adjective.

### **Examples:**

The well-crafted, century-old mansion is a masterpiece of architectural brilliance.

The twenty-minute-long documentary captured the essence of the endangered species' habitat.

It was a high-stakes, last-minute decision that determined the outcome of the tournament.

## Position of Adjectives

### 1. Before the Noun:

Adjectives typically appear before the noun they modify.

Example: The massive oak tree provided ample shade on the hot summer day.

### 2. After a Linking Verb:

Adjectives can follow linking verbs like be, seem, become, appear, etc.

Example: The sky seemed endless and vividly blue during the flight.

## Forms of Adjectives – Degrees of Comparison

Did you know that adjectives can be used to compare similar qualities of different subjects that perform the same action. There are three forms of adjectives or rather three Degrees of Comparison. The are:

### Positive Degree of Comparison:

The positive form or the positive degree of comparison is the form of the adjective used in the original form. This form of adjective is used when there is no other subject to be compared.

#### For example:

This book is **interesting**.

The serene environment of the monastery was ideal for meditation.

### Comparative Degree of Comparison

The comparative form of the adjective is used when two subjects performing the same action or possessing the same quality are compared. Compares two entities. Use -er or more/less depending on the adjective.

#### For example:

The book I read yesterday was **more interesting than** the one I read today.

The view from the hilltop was more captivating than the one from the valley.

### Superlative Degree of Comparison

The superlative degree of comparison is used when comparing the same quality of two or more subjects and to represent that a subject is superior to two or more subjects in performing an action. Compares three or more entities. Use -est or most/least.

#### For example:

This fantasy novel is the **most interesting** book that I have ever read.

The Northern Lights were the most awe-inspiring phenomenon I had ever witnessed.

## Order of Adjectives

Adjectives follow this order when used together:

Opinion > Size > Age > Shape > Color > Origin > Material > Purpose > Noun

### **Example:**

She bought a stunning large antique rectangular brown Italian wooden dining table for her new home.

### **Rules for Using Adjectives**

#### **1. Do Not Mix Adjective Forms(Adjectives of comparison do not use double comparatives or superlatives):**

Incorrect: This is the most happiest day of my life.

Correct: This is the happiest day of my life.

Incorrect: She is more taller.

Correct: She is taller.

#### **2. Adjectives Do Not Change for Singular or Plural Nouns:**

A red car, red cars. The old house still stands. The old houses still stand.

#### **3. Avoid Misplacing Adjectives(Do not mix adverbs with adjectives improperly):**

Incorrect: He is a man intelligent.

Correct: He is an intelligent man.

### **Common Errors**

#### **1. Wrong Word Order:**

Incorrect: She has a wooden large table.

Correct: She has a large wooden table.

#### **2. Incorrect Degree Usage:**

Incorrect: He is the more clever student.

Correct: He is the cleverer student.

#### **3. Confusion Between Adjective and Adverb:**

Incorrect: She sings beautiful.

Correct: She sings beautifully.

### **How to Use Adjectives in Sentences?**

Adjectives are known to give your writing and speech a very flowery look. It aids in making it descriptive and also in giving your readers and listeners a visual treat. However, stuffing it with too many adjectives can make it look or sound vague and unclear. This would only lead to misunderstanding of your content. Knowing when, where and how to use adjectives is a skill that you should master.

Any piece of writing should be clear and precise. Find out if there is a word that specifically means whatever you are trying to convey. For example: quick, swift, hasty, fleet, etc. are all adjectives that mean 'very fast'. Likewise, contented, cheerful, merry, joyful, ecstatic, delighted, etc. are all words that describe different degrees of

happiness. There is also another concept that you should know. There is a particular order in which you should place adjectives when you are using two or more adjectives to describe the same subject or object.

### **Examples of Adjectives**

If you are wondering what part of speech a colour or a number belongs to, do not waste any more time thinking about it. All colours and numbers are classified as adjectives. Adjectives are words that modify nouns but in most cases, they can be seen to be doing much more than that. Given below are the various ways in which adjectives can function and be used.

### **Adjectives as Complements**

Adjectives can act as complements that modify nouns that act as subjects and objects. When the adjective describes the object in a sentence, it is called an object complement and when it is used to describe the subject in a sentence, it is referred to as a subject complement. They are seen to be used in sentences which are seen to use the following patterns:

SVC – Aaron is good.

In the above example, the adjective is ‘good’ and it is used to describe the subject ‘Aaron’ and so it is called a subject complement.

SVOC – The movie made Karthik sleepy.

Here, the adjective ‘sleepy’ describes the object ‘Karthik’ and so comes under the category of object complements.

### **Adjectives as Coordinates**

When two or more adjectives are used to describe the same noun in a sentence, they are called coordinate adjectives. Coordinate adjectives are often separated by a comma or the conjunction ‘and’.

For example:

The mobile phone is **easy to use** and **handy**.

My cousin is **tall** and **thin**.

### **Practice Exercises**

#### **1. Identify the adjectives and their types:**

The young, adventurous traveler explored uncharted territories with boundless enthusiasm.

Every student was eager to participate in the highly anticipated event.

#### **2. Use adjectives to form complex sentences:**

Combine three adjectives of different types to describe a scene or object.

#### **3. Reorder the adjectives correctly:**

An old beautiful European leather chair.