Learning Centre

Adjectives



Adjectives are describing words for *nouns*. They are used in sentences to give the reader or listener a better picture of the noun. Often more than one adjective is used to describe the same noun.

Example:The houseno adjectives, no descriptionThe little, browntwo adjectives, some descriptionNow I know what the house looks like.

The words "little" and "brown" give a description of the house which helps readers to get a mental picture of the house. An easy way to locate adjectives is to ask "which?" before a noun. If you see an answer to the question, then you have found an adjective. Sometimes you will find more than one answer.

Examples: The <u>little</u>, <u>brown</u> house Which house? The <u>little</u> house. The <u>brown</u> house.

> The <u>ancient</u> book was found in the <u>dark</u>, <u>dusty</u> attic. Which book? The <u>ancient</u> book. Which attic? The <u>dark</u> attic. The <u>dusty</u> attic.

Sometimes nouns can be used as adjectives. If you see two nouns next to each other, the first one may be used to describe the second one. In this case, the first noun is called an **attributive noun**, and it's being used as an adjective.

Examples: The <u>circus</u> is in town.

The word <u>circus</u> is a noun here.

The <u>circus</u> tent fell during the high wind.

The words <u>circus</u> and tent are usually nouns. The sentence talks about the tent for the circus, so <u>circus</u> is an adjective here.

EXERCISE:

A. <u>Underline</u> the adjectives in these sentences.

Example:

Under the bright spotlights her long, blonde hair glistened.

- 1) A large bowl of hot soup was served to the hungry men.
- 2) An old, grey-haired man sat on a wooden bench and fed the chirping birds.
- 3) The polished metal reflected the bright rays of the morning sunlight.
- 4) A cleaning lady is wiping the large, greasy spot from the kitchen floor.
- 5) Although the disappointed, young athlete lost the main event, he intends to return for the annual competition.
- 6) Her lovely stories have been translated into many foreign languages.
- 7) The curved mirror made the tall, thin woman look like a short, plump person with funny, little feet.

SOLUTIONS

- A. 1) large, hot, hungry 2) old, grey-haired, wooden, chirping
 - 3) <u>polished</u>, <u>bright</u>, <u>morning</u> 4) <u>cleaning</u>, <u>large</u>, <u>greasy</u>, <u>kitchen</u>
 - 5) <u>disappointed</u>, <u>young</u>, <u>main</u>, <u>annual</u> 6) <u>lovely</u>, <u>many</u>, <u>foreign</u>
 - 7) <u>curved</u>, <u>tall</u>, <u>thin</u>, <u>short</u>, <u>plump</u>, <u>funny</u>, <u>little</u>