

ETUDE DE LA PHRASE SIMPLE:

1. Adjectives

What is an Adjective?

Adjectives are words that **describe** or **modify** nouns (people, places, things, or animals) or pronouns. They describe the noun by telling us its **size, shape, age, colour**, etc.

Adjectives are placed either before the noun or after it:

- **Before the noun:** *a tall building, a red apple, an old man*
- **After the noun** (often with linking verbs like *is, are, was*): *The building is tall, The apple is red, The man is old*

Function of adjectives:

The **function of adjectives** is to provide more information about a noun or pronoun, making descriptions more specific and detailed. They do this by answering different types of questions:

1. **How much?** – Describes the amount or quantity of something.
 - Example: *More efforts, little patience, some water, no money, little sugar*
2. **How many?** – Indicates the number or count of items.
 - Example: *Many types, one newspaper, few books, three pens*
3. **What kind?** – Gives details about the specific type or quality of a noun.
 - Example: *White car, silver earrings, spicy food, old house, delicious cake*
4. **Which one?** – Identifies a specific noun within a group or order.
 - Example: *Second room, last chapter, first prize, this pen, that car, next week*

Types of Adjectives:

1. Common and Proper Adjectives:

Common adjectives are general words that describe nouns and pronouns; they are not capitalized unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence.

Most adjectives are "**common adjectives**". They describe people, places and things, for example:

- *tall* man, *big* dog, *noisy* baby, *large* garden, *empty* room, *beautiful* city, *red* car, *hot* weather, *expensive* watch ...

Proper adjectives are words derived from proper nouns and describe something specific therefore need to be **capitalized**, like the proper nouns. For example, **Spain** is the name of a country and starts with a capital letter. The adjective based on Spain (**Spanish**) must also start with a capital letter. Mars is the name of a planet and starts with a capital letter. The adjective based on Mars (**Martian**) must also start with a capital letter. Shakespeare was the name of a famous writer and starts with a capital letter. The adjective based on Shakespeare (**Shakespearean**) must also start with a capital letter.

- **Spanish** food, **Victorian** architecture, **Shakespearean** play, **American** flag, the **Martian** climate, **Shakespearean** poetry, **French** cuisine, **Mexican** festival, **African** art ...

2. Compound Adjectives:

A compound adjective is an adjective that is made up of two or more words working together to describe a noun. These words are usually connected by a **hyphen (-)**. The combination creates a single idea that describes the noun in more detail.

How to form compound adjectives:

- **adjective + adjective:** red-hot, bitter-sweet
- **adjective + noun:** long-distance, full-time, high-speed
- **adjective + present participle:** easy-going, good-looking, fast-moving
- **adjective + past participle:** ready-made, short-lived, high-priced
- **noun + adjective:** ice-cold, sky-high, rock-hard
- **noun + past participle:** hand-made, machine-washed, sun-dried
- **noun + present participle:** English-speaking, snow-covered, labor-saving
- **adverb + past participle:** well-prepared, highly-respected, deep-rooted

3. **Articles:** Articles are a special type of adjective, as they modify nouns by providing information about definiteness or specificity. There are three articles: a, an, the.

• **Definite Article :** "**The**" is used to refer to a specific noun that is known to the reader or listener. We use it with both singular and plural nouns.

Example: "Please pass me **the** book." (A particular book is being referred to.)

• **Indefinite Articles (A and An):** refer to non-specific singular nouns

- "A" is used before words that start with a consonant sound. Example: "I saw *a* dog."
- "An" is used before words that start with a vowel sound. Example: "She ate *an* apple."

4. **Descriptive Adjectives:** Descriptive adjectives give more information about the noun's characteristics, such as **color, size, shape, quality, or appearance**. Most adjectives are descriptive adjectives.

Examples: *blue, tall, round, happy, heavy*.

- **Color:** Red dress, Green grass, Blue sky
- **Size:** Small house, Huge dog, Tiny flower
- **Shape:** Round table, Square box, Oval mirror
- **Quality or Character:** Kind teacher, Exciting story, Happy child
- **Temperature:** Cold morning, Hot soup, Warm blanket
- **Sound:** Loud music, Soft voice, Noisy classroom
- **Taste:** Sweet cake, Sour lemonade, Bitter coffee
- **Material:** Wooden table, Metal chair, Silk dress

5. **Quantitative Adjectives:** Quantitative adjectives, as the name suggests, are adjectives that express quantity or provide information about the number or amount of a noun. They answer questions like "how much?" or "how many?" Quantitative adjectives can be divided into two main categories: definite and indefinite.

a. **Definite Quantitative Adjectives (Numerical Adjectives):** Definite quantitative adjectives indicate a specific or exact number or amount. Examples: one, two, three, four, five, ten, hundred, thousand.

- I have one book on my shelf.

- She has five siblings.

b. **Indefinite Quantitative Adjectives:** Indefinite quantitative adjectives give a general or approximate idea of the number or amount without specifying an exact quantity. Examples: some, any, several, few, many, much, most, all.

Common Indefinite Quantitative Adjectives :

- **Quantity:** *all, some, any, several, few, many, much, each, every*
- **Selection or Choice:** *either, neither, another, other*

- **Examples:** - "All students must attend the assembly." - "I'd like *another* piece of cake."
- "You can take *either* route." / "Neither option is suitable."
- "She has *several* books on the topic." - "Do you have any *other* questions?"
- Would you like some cake? - Do you have any questions? - He has many friends.

7. **Demonstrative adjectives:** (also called **demonstrative determiners**), like all adjectives, give more information about a noun or pronoun. They always come at the beginning of a noun phrase (e.g., "**these** big green wool mittens"). Demonstrative adjectives are used to indicate the distance of the thing or person being referred to from the speaker or writer.

- "**This**" (singular) and "**these**" (plural) refer to something or someone relatively close.
- "**That**" (singular) and "**those**" (plural) refer to something or someone relatively far away.

Examples: - I don't like this book. Can I read that one you have instead?

- Are you sure you want to buy these silver earrings? What about those gold ones, over there?

8. Possessive Adjectives show ownership or belonging and answer the question "Whose?" They indicate that something belongs to someone or something.

The possessive adjectives are: **my, your, his, her, its, our, their.**

Examples: *My book Your phone His jacket Her car*

How to Form Adjectives :

Forming adjectives in English involves adding suffixes to **nouns** or **verbs** to give them descriptive qualities.

1. Forming Adjectives from Nouns

Many adjectives are formed by adding specific suffixes to nouns. Here are some common ones:

- **-ful:** Adds the meaning "full of" the noun's quality.
 - *care* → *careful* *joy* → *joyful* *beauty* → *beautiful*
- **-less:** Adds the meaning "without" the noun's quality.
 - *home* → *homeless* *fear* → *fearless* *hope* → *hopeless*
- **-y:** Often indicates having the characteristics of the noun.
 - *rain* → *rainy* *dirt* → *dirty* *sun* → *sunny*
- **-ic** or **-ical:** Indicates a relationship to the noun, often scientific or descriptive.
 - *poetry* → *poetic* *history* → *historical* *music* → *musical*
- **-al:** Shows a connection or relation to the noun.
 - *nature* → *natural* *accident* → *accidental* *bride* → *bridal*
- **-ous:** Indicates "full of" or "having" the quality of the noun.
 - *danger* → *dangerous* *fame* → *famous* *mystery* → *mysterious*

2. Forming Adjectives from Verbs

Adjectives can also be created by adding suffixes to verbs:

- **-able / -ible:** Adds the meaning "capable of" or "worthy of" the verb action.
 - *read* → *readable* *convert* → *convertible* *depend* → *dependable*
- **-ing:** Often used to describe something that performs the action or causes a certain feeling.
 - *excite* → *exciting* *amuse* → *amusing* *interest* → *interesting*
- **-ed:** Used to describe someone's feelings as a result of the verb's action (common with emotions).
 - *bore* → *bored* *excite* → *excited* *amaze* → *amazed*
- **-ive:** Used to add a characteristic related to the verb's action.
 - *impress* → *impressive* *create* → *creative* *support* → *supportive*

3. Using Prefixes:

Adjectives can also be formed by adding **prefixes** to other adjectives to modify the meaning of these adjectives (**negative adjectives**).

- **un-:** Adds the meaning "not" or "opposite of."
 - happy* → *unhappy* *comfortable* → *uncomfortable* *certain* → *uncertain*
- **in- / im- / il- / ir-:** These are variations of the same prefix and are used based on the first letter of the word they attach to, adding the meaning "not" or "opposite of."
 - accurate* → *inaccurate* *possible* → *impossible* *legal* → *illegal* *regular* → *irregular*
- **non-:** Adds the meaning "not," often used with more modern or technical terms.
 - existent* → *nonexistent* *fictional* → *nonfictional* *verbal* → *nonverbal*
- **dis-:** Adds the meaning "not" or "opposite of," commonly used with words derived from Latin.
 - connected* → *disconnected* *honest* → *dishonest* *satisfied* → *dissatisfied*

Examples:

- **un-** + *natural* (noun) → **unnatural** (adjective): "His behavior seemed unnatural."
- **super-** + *hero* (noun) → **superhero** (adjective): "He has superhero qualities."
- **multi-** + *color* (noun) → **multicolor** (adjective): "She wore a multicolor scarf."
- **over-** + *cook* (verb) → **overcooked** (adjective): "The steak was overcooked."
- **under-** + *develop* (verb) → **underdeveloped** (adjective): "This area is underdeveloped."
- **mis-** + *understand* (verb) → **misunderstood** (adjective): "He's a misunderstood artist."
- **un-** + *happy* (adjective) → **unhappy** (adjective): "She felt unhappy with the results."
- **in-** + *active* (adjective) → **inactive** (adjective): "He's been inactive for weeks."

- **super-** + *rich* (adjective) → **super-rich** (adjective): "The company is super-rich now."

4. Using Adjective Phrases:

Adjective phrases are groups of words (**often containing an adjective**) that acts as an adjective in a sentence and work together to describe a noun or a pronoun.

Types of adjective phrases

Adjective phrase form	Example
Series of adjectives (multiple adjectives)	• She bought a small, round, wooden box. • The old, rusty, red car was parked outside.
Adverb (or intensifier) + adjective	• His behavior was completely unacceptable. • The movie was surprisingly entertaining.
Comparative adjective or superlative adjective	• Mel is faster than Oliver. • You are the most caring person I know.
Prepositional phrase	• The girl in the red dress is my cousin. • He wore a jacket with silver buttons. • The book on the shelf belongs to my sister.
Participial phrase	• The lady wearing a blue hat is my aunt. • The car parked outside belongs to my neighbor.

Comparatives and Superlatives

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

Adjectives have three forms to show different degrees of comparison: **absolute**, **comparative**, and **superlative**. Each form serves a unique purpose in describing qualities.

1. Absolute Adjectives (Positive)

Absolute adjectives describe a quality of a noun in its own right, without comparison to others (the base form of an adjective).

- Example : small, bright, beautiful
- Sentence: "This is a **beautiful** garden."

2. Comparative Adjectives

Comparative adjectives show a comparison between two things, indicating that one has more or less of a quality than the other. We typically add **-er** to the adjective or use **more/less** before the adjective.

- Examples : **smaller, brighter, more beautiful**
- Sentence: "This garden is **more beautiful** than that one."
- This house is certainly *better*, but it's much *more expensive*.
- I am feeling *happier* now.
- We need a *bigger* garden.

3. Superlative Adjectives

Superlative adjectives indicate that something has the highest degree of a quality within a group of three or more. We usually add **-est** or use **most/least** before the adjective.

- Examples : **smallest, brightest, most beautiful**
- Sentence: "This is **the most beautiful** garden I've ever seen."
- It was **the happiest** day of my life.
- That's **the best** film I have seen this year.
- I have three sisters: Jan is **the oldest** and Angela is **the youngest**.

Examples in Sentences :

- *Absolute*: "She has a **fast** car."
- *Comparative*: "Her car is **faster than** mine."
- *Superlative*: "Out of all the cars, hers is **the fastest**."

Comparative Adjective Formation:

Forming **comparative** and **superlative** adjectives depends on the number of syllables in the base adjective.

1. For Short Adjectives (1 syllable) : Comparative: Add **-er**

Superlative : Add **-est**

Base Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	tallest
small	smaller	smallest
fast	faster	fastest

Examples :

- Comparative: This tree is **taller than** that one.
- Superlative: This is **the tallest** tree in the park.

2. For Adjectives with 2 Syllables Ending in -y: Comparative: Replace **-y** with **-ier**

Superlative: Replace **-y** with **-iest**

Base Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
busy	busier	busiest
lucky	luckier	luckiest

Examples :

- Comparative: She is **happier** now **than** before.
- Superlative: He is **the happiest** person I know.

3. For Longer Adjectives (2+ syllables): Comparative: Use **more** before the adjective.

Superlative: Use **most** before the adjective.

Base Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
expensive	more expensive	most expensive
interesting	more interesting	most interesting

Examples :

- Comparative: This book is **more interesting than** that one.
- Superlative: This is **the most interesting** book I've ever read.

4. Irregular Adjectives: Some adjectives don't follow the regular rules.

Base Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
far	farther/further	farthest/furthest
Little	Less	Much
Much	More	Most
Many	More	Most

Examples:

- Comparative: She is **better** at math **than** me.
- Superlative: He is **the best** student in the class.

➤ We often use '**THE**' with comparative adjectives to show that one thing **depends** on another:

Example: The faster you drive, the more dangerous it is. (= When you drive faster, it is more dangerous.)

- The higher they climbed, the colder it got. (= When they climbed higher, it got colder.)

➤ **Double Comparatives/Superlatives:** Avoid using double comparatives or superlatives.

For example: **more better** is incorrect; use better instead.

Examples: **Correct:** She is **better** at tennis than her sister. **Incorrect:** She is **more better** at tennis than her sister.

➤ If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

Adjective	comparative	superlative
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Fat	Fatter	Fattest

Exercise: Identify the Adjective and Its Type

1. She bought some Italian shoes.
2. Sharon will clean her messy room today.
3. The woman spent all her money.
4. We have enough food for the trip.
5. There is no sugar left in the jar.
6. These mangoes are very sweet.
7. I did not find those books.
8. Either boy was present there.
9. We did not receive sufficient rain this year.