

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are words which modify nouns and pronouns.

CATEGORIES OF ADJECTIVES

There are six categories of adjectives (with some minor internal divisions):

Qualitative (Showing Qualities of Nouns/Pronouns):

Perception - beautiful, ugly, easy, difficult, interesting

Size - small, tall, short, big

Age - young, old, new, ancient, classic

Shape - round, oval, square, rectangular

Color - blue, green, yellow, pink, purple, red

Nationality - American, Japanese, Canadian

Material - metallic, plastic, wooden, glass, paper

Purpose/Qualification -- foldout, intake, fishing (e.g. fishing boat)

EX:

The *beautiful, Japanese* dress was wonderful.

The *green, rectangular* box contained potpourri.

The *blue* sea is *beautiful*.

The *long folding* table is very *useful* for parties.

ABSOLUTES, COMPARATIVE, AND SUPERLATIVES

Adjectives may be used to show comparison and superlatives (things to their greatest extent).

| <u>Absolute</u> | <u>Comparative</u> | <u>Superlative</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Good | Better | Best |
| Bad | Worse | Worst |
| Large | Larger | Largest |
| Small | Smaller | Smallest |

The Absolute is the form of the adjective which has no comparison.

EX:

Jimmy is a *strong* guy.

Comparatives are used to compare two items.

EX:

Jimmy is *stronger* than I am.

Superlatives are used when you are comparing more than two items (i.e., three or more); moreover, they are the forms of adjectives which often represent the "greatest" extent/potential of a modifier.

EX:

Jimmy is the *strongest* person that I know.

SYLLABLES AND COMPARATIVES

Generally, superlatives follow some patterns of language.

When an adjective has one syllable, the letters –ER are added.

EX:

Large => Larger

When an adjective has two syllables, the letters –ER are added or (depending on usage) the word MORE is added.

EX:

Easy => Easier

-or-

Stressful => More Stressful

When an adjective has more than three syllables, the word MORE is added in front of the adjective.

EX:

Difficult => More Difficult

SYLLABLES AND SUPERLATIVES

Generally, superlatives follow some patterns of language.

When an adjective has one syllable, the letters –EST are added.

EX:

Large => Largest

When an adjective has two syllables, the letters –EST are added or (depending on usage) the word MOST is added.

EX:

Easy => Easiest

-or-

Stressful => Most Stressful

When an adjective has more than three syllables, the word MOST is added in front of the adjective/superlative.

EX:

Beautiful => Most Beautiful

STACKING ADJECTIVES

Adjectives can be stacked together to help to make more specific the sensory and physical properties of the noun.

EX:

green, seven-day-old, moldy tortilla

the two-hundred year old house

this stupid-ridiculous-crappy exam