

92 Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. In English, they usually come before the noun that they are describing. There are several categories of adjective.

See also:
Singular and plural nouns 69

92.1 USING ADJECTIVES

Adjectives in English are usually placed before the noun they describe. They do not change form to agree with the noun.

He is a **busy** man.



She is a **busy** woman.



Adjectives are the same for nouns that describe males or females.

It is a **busy** town.



These are **busy** streets.



Adjectives are the same for singular and plural nouns.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



This is a **red** shirt.



It's a **cold** day.

These are **tall** buildings.



She does **great** concerts.



92.2 OTHER WAYS TO USE ADJECTIVES

Sometimes, adjectives can be put after a verb such as "be" or "become."

The adjective can go at the end of the sentence after the verb "be."

The town is **busy**.



FURTHER EXAMPLES



That house is **beautiful**.



He is **annoyed**.

The noun can be replaced with a pronoun.



The cake is **delicious**.



She is very **tired**.



Natalie's dress is **long**.

92.3 TYPES OF FACT ADJECTIVES

Fact adjectives tell you a particular fact about the noun they are describing. There are many different categories of fact adjectives.

Size

The children saw an **enormous** dog. 

Shape

It's a **round** ball. 

Age

My great-grandmother is very **old**. 

Color

Nicole just loves her **red** hat. 

Nationality

I love eating **French** pastries. 

Material

I've bought some **leather** shoes. 

92.4 TYPES OF OPINION ADJECTIVES

Opinion adjectives describe what somebody thinks about something.

General opinion adjectives can describe lots of different things.

Specific opinion adjectives can only usually describe a certain type of thing.

General opinion

I just bought a very **nice** guitar. 

"Nice" is a general opinion adjective. It can describe lots of different things.

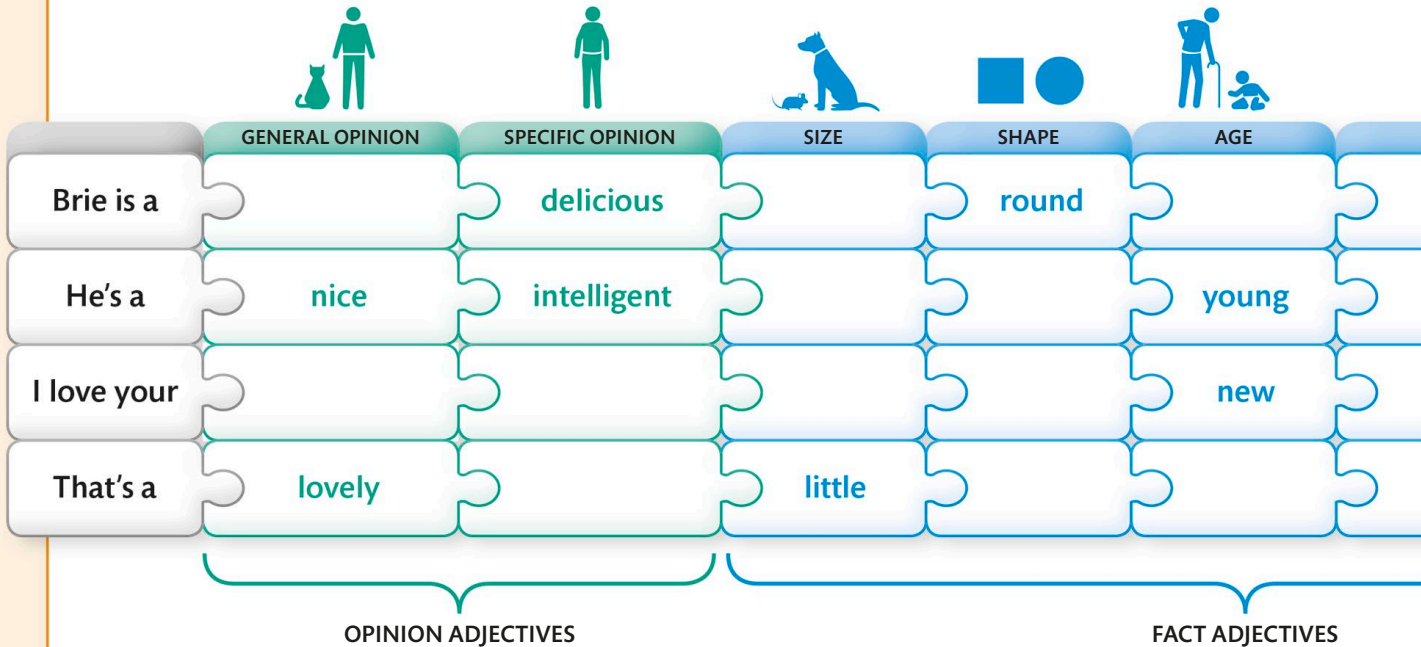
Specific opinion

Sylvester is such a **friendly** cat! 

"Friendly" is a specific opinion adjective. It usually only describes people or animals.

92.5 ADJECTIVE ORDER

When several adjectives are used together before a noun, they must go in a particular order. Opinion adjectives come before fact adjectives. General opinion adjectives always come before specific opinion adjectives, and the order of fact adjectives in a sentence depends on the type of fact that they describe.



92.6 ADJECTIVES WITH “-ING” AND “-ED”

“-ING” ADJECTIVES

Adjectives that end in “-ing” describe the effect something has.

The spider is **frightening**.

The spider causes fright.

“-ED” ADJECTIVES

Adjectives ending in “-ed” describe how something is affected.

The man is **frightened**.

The man experiences fright.



TIP

English doesn't usually use more than three adjectives in a row to describe something.



COLOR

NATIONALITY

MATERIAL

French

cheese.

Brie is a **delicious**
round French cheese.



man.

He's a **nice, intelligent**
young man.



green

dress.

I love your
new green dress.



china

cup.

That's a **lovely**
little china cup.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

The fireworks are **amazing**.
She is **amazed**.



The wasp is **annoying**.
He is **annoyed**.



The roller coaster was **thrilling**.
They were **thrilled**.



The vacation is **relaxing**.
He is **relaxed**.



I found the book too **confusing**.
I was **confused** the whole time.



Your lecture was **interesting**.
I was **interested** by your lecture.



The final scene was really **shocking**.
Everyone was really **shocked**.



That film was very **boring**.
I was very **bored**.

