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Adjectives

The description detectives





Grammar at a glance

When you want to...	Form to use	Worked example
Pick out a noun	adjective + noun	Pass the striped scarf.
Describe after a verb	noun + linking verb + adjective	The scarf feels soft.
Compare sizes	long / longer / longest	Of the three, this scarf is longest.
Support a comparison	measurement + comparison	At 2 m, it is longer than the 1 m scarf.

SELECT A ROW TO OPEN ITS LESSON

ADJECTIVES

Use details to identify a noun



Three bags wait on the table: a small red bag, a large blue bag and a small blue bag. Sam says “Bring the bag.” Lily cannot tell which one.

An adjective describes a noun. Choose a detail that helps your listener pick the intended object.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Name only the thing	Bring the bag.	Bag is the noun. All three objects fit that description.
Add the colour	Bring the blue bag.	Blue is an adjective, but two bags are blue. The message still allows two choices.
Add size and colour	Bring the small blue bag.	Small and blue describe bag. Together they identify the bag on the right.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Detail 1	Detail 2	Named thing
small	blue	bag

Does adding any adjective make a message clear?

No. Blue is a genuine adjective, but it still leaves two choices here. Check whether the detail distinguishes the intended thing rather than merely making the phrase longer.

YOUR TURN

In “the wide gate”, which word is the adjective?

gate / wide

> **Answer • wide**
> Wide describes the noun gate.

ADJECTIVES

Before a noun and after a linking verb



A blue bag is open on the table. Lily can write “The blue bag is open” or “The open bag is blue.”

An adjective can come before a noun or after a linking verb. Compare “a narrow gate” with “The gate is narrow.”

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Describe before the noun	The blue bag is open.	Blue comes before bag. Open also describes the bag, after the linking verb is.
Swap the description positions	The open bag is blue.	Open comes before bag; blue follows is. Both details still describe the same bag.
Keep a natural phrase order	Bring the small blue bag.	For this neutral instruction, size before colour is the usual order: small blue bag.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Before the noun	Linking verb	Description after it
the blue bag	is	open

Do adjectives stop being adjectives after is?

No. Blue in The bag is blue still describes the bag. Is is the linking verb. Likewise, open can describe a condition in The bag is open, while opens is a verb in Lily opens the bag.

YOUR TURN

In “The gate is narrow”, what job does narrow do?

An adjective describing gate / The linking verb

> Answer • An adjective describing gate
> It gives the gate’s description after is.

ADJECTIVES

Comparative and superlative descriptions



Three plants stand in equal-sized pots on the same table. The left plant is short, the middle plant is taller than the left one, and the right plant is tallest of all three.

Use a comparative to compare two things. Use a superlative to pick one at an extreme of a group.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Describe one plant	The left plant is short.	Short describes one plant without giving a full comparison sentence.
Compare a pair	The middle plant is taller than the left plant.	Taller compares the height of these two named plants.
Compare the whole group	The right plant is the tallest of the three.	Tallest identifies the greatest height in the stated group.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Describe	Compare a pair	Extreme in a group
tall	taller than	the tallest of the three

Does taller than one plant mean tallest of all?

No. The middle plant beats the left plant in height but not the right one. Check every member of the stated group before choosing a superlative.

YOUR TURN

Two ropes measure 2 m and 4 m. The 4 m rope is ___ than the 2 m rope.
longest / longer

> **Answer • longer**
> Longer compares the two named lengths.

ADJECTIVES

Use evidence and preserve the facts



Two closed boxes look the same size. The weighing record says left box: 2 kg; right box: 5 kg. The right box is heavier, although the picture alone cannot tell us its weight.

Match the description to the evidence. You can see colour, but you need a measurement to say which box is heavier.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Read the picture	The boxes look the same size.	The visible dimensions support this description. Matching size does not prove matching weight.
Use the weighing record	The right box is heavier than the left box.	The record gives 5 kg on the right and 2 kg on the left. It supports heavier.
Reject the unsupported claim	The larger-looking box must be heavier.	Size alone does not establish weight. Here the boxes even look the same size.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Visible appearance	Left box on scales	Right box on scales	Supported comparison
same-sized boxes	2 kg	5 kg	right is heavier

Does a bigger object always weigh more?

No. Size and weight describe different properties. A small dense object can weigh more than a large hollow one. Use the stated measurements when the comparison concerns weight.

YOUR TURN

Two closed bottles look identical. Can their appearance alone prove equal weight?

No, their contents may differ. / Yes, identical appearance proves identical weight.

> Answer • No, their contents may differ.
> Appearance does not establish the hidden contents or weight.

ONE LAST CHALLENGE

Which ribbon should I bring?

Two blue ribbons are on the table. One measures 10 cm and the other measures 30 cm. Ask for the 30 cm ribbon without using a number.



A POSSIBLE ANSWER

Please bring the longer blue ribbon.

Blue fits both ribbons. Longer identifies the one you want.

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