

GENERAL ENGLISH

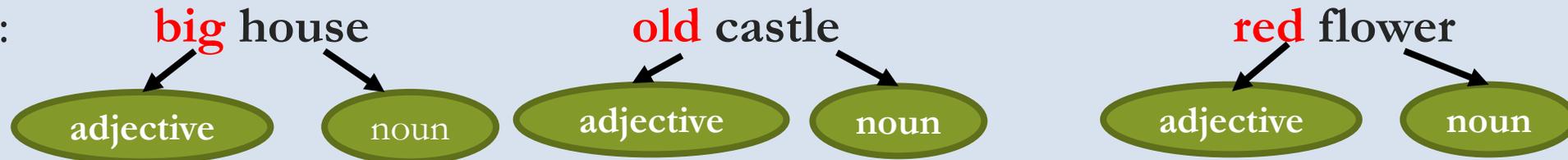
G.C.E. ADVANCED LEVEL



Adjectives

- What are adjectives ?
- **Adjectives** are **words** that **describe** or **give more information** about a **noun** it refers to.
- In other words **adjectives modify nouns** and **pronouns**.

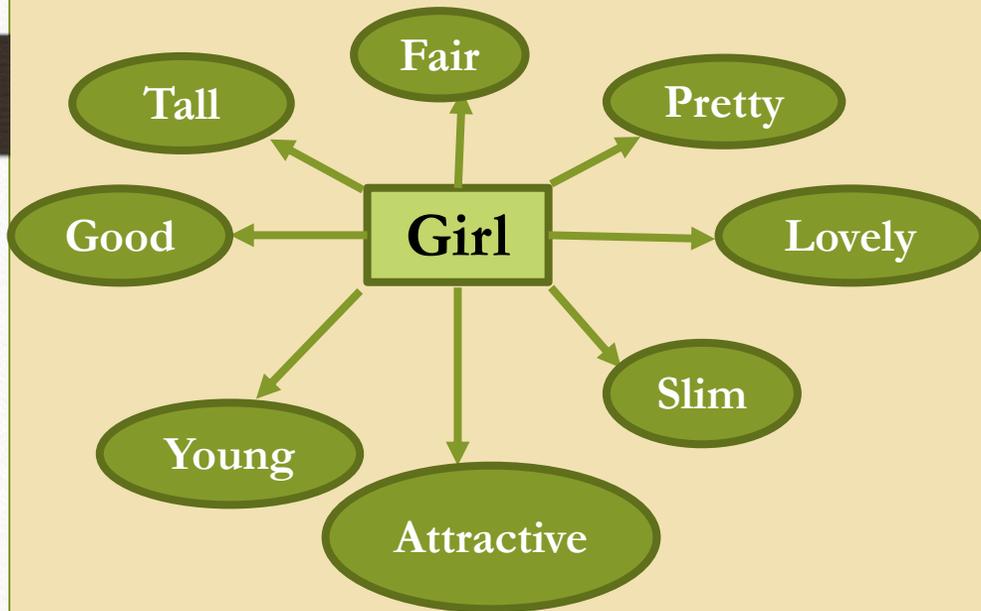
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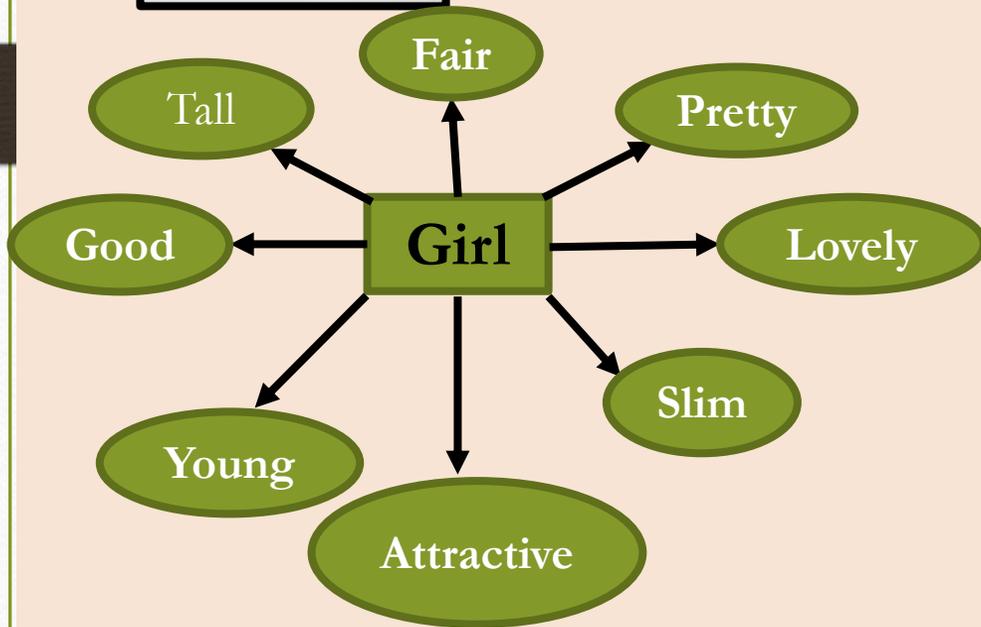


Let's describe this girl using adjectives



1. She is a fair girl
2. She is a girl.
3. She is a girl.
4. She girl.
5. She girl.
6. She girl.
7. Shegirl.
8. Shegirl.

Let's describe this girl using adjectives



1. She is a fair girl.
2. She is a**lovely**..... girl.\
3. She is a**pretty**..... girl.
4. She**is a slim**..... girl.
5. She**is a young**..... girl.
6. She **is an attractive** girl.
7. She**is a good**.....girl.
8. She**is a tall**.....girl.

Match the pictures with the relevant **noun phrases** 

(**adjective** + **noun**)

- **beautiful** -



- **boring**



- **stimulating**



boring lesson

stimulating teacher

beautiful waterfall

We'll check answers

- beautiful -



- boring



- stimulating



boring lesson

stimulating teacher

beautiful waterfall

Use the correct adjective

stupid

delicious

useful



.....meal

.....animal

.....person

Use the correct adjective -Answers

stupid

delicious

useful



delicious.....meal

useful.....animal

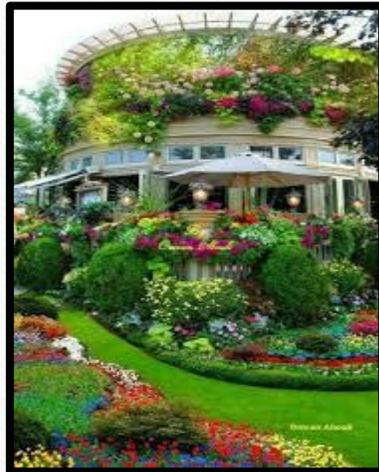
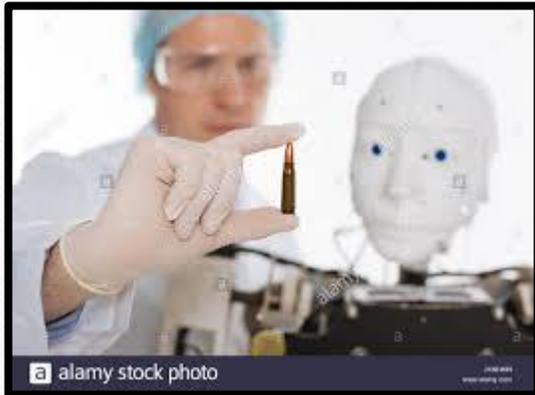
stupid.....person

Write a suitable noun phrase using the given adjectives

lovely

comfortable

brilliant



.....

.....

.....

Write a suitable noun phrase using the given adjectives-Answers

lovely

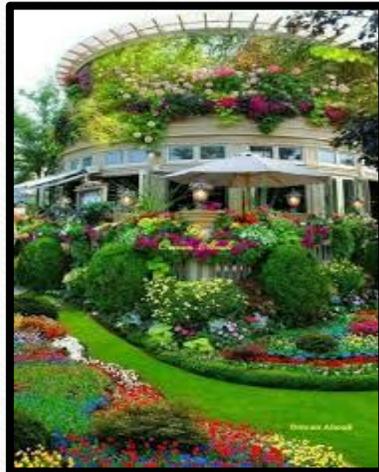
comfortable

brilliant



brilliant scientist

.....



lovely garden

.....



comfortable chair

.....

Adjectives

An **adjective** is a word that describes something

An **adjective** gives us more information about a person or something

To be

+

Adjective

Adjective

+

Noun

He is

+

tall

slow

car

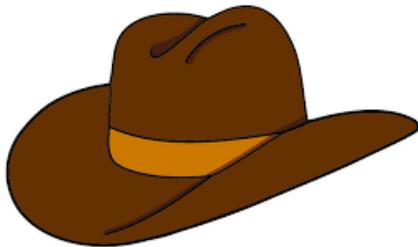
She is

+

happy

brown

hat



old

brown

hat



Which one is correct ?

brown

old

hat



Why ?



The order of the adjectives

Often we can use **more than one adjective** to describe something. Even **four or more adjectives** can be used although this is quite rare.

When you use more than one adjective, they are usually in a **particular order**.



What's it ? Is
it easy to
remember ?

There is a **general
order of adjectives**
before a noun. Yes



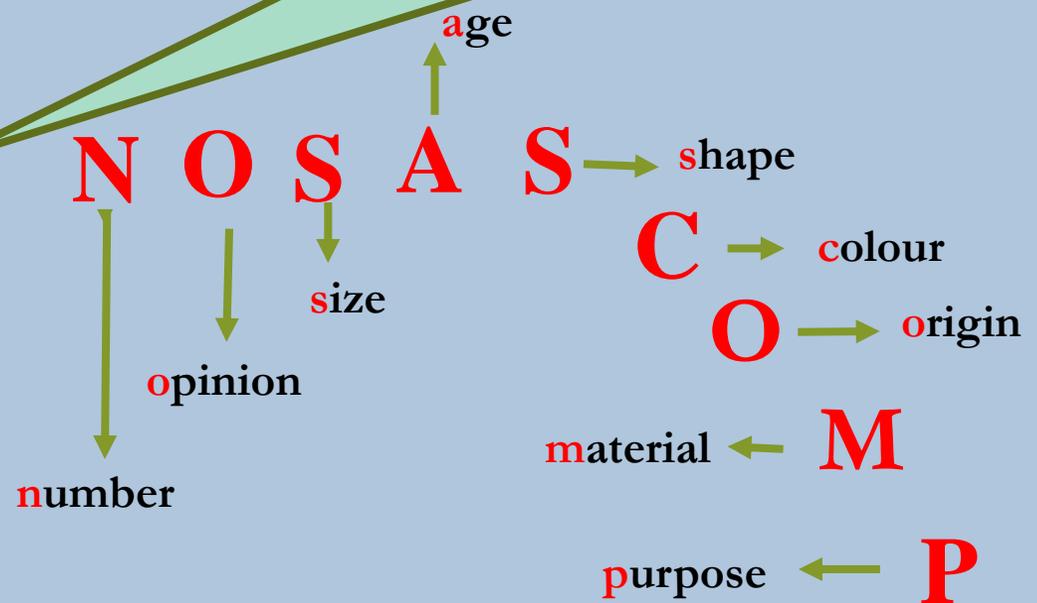
A **big black** wolf

A black big wolf



Here is an **acronym** for you to remember the correct order

N-O-S-A-S-C-O-M-P



The general order of adjectives before a noun is following

N-O-S-A-S-C-O-M-P

NUMBER

OPINION

SIZE

AGE

SHAPE

COLOUR

ORIGIN

MATERIAL

PURPOSE



ORDER OF ADJECTIVES



1

Determiner

a, an, the, both,
either, some, many,
my, your, our, etc.

2

Opinion

good, bad, great,
terrible, pretty, silly,
lovely, beautiful, etc.



3

Size

huge, big, large, tiny,
enormous, little, tall,
long, gigantic, etc.

4

Shape

flat, round,
square, triangular,
rectangular, etc.

5

Age

young, old, new,
ancient, six-year-old,
antique, youthful, etc.

6

Color

red, black, pale,
bright, faded, shining,
yellow, orange, etc.



7

Origin

French, American,
Canadian, Mexican,
Greek, Swiss, etc.



8

Material

wooden, silk, metal,
paper, gold, silver,
copper, cotton, etc.



9

Purpose

writing, rolling,
sleeping, roasting,
running, dancing, etc.



Number	describes the number of nouns	one, two, three, four
Opinion	describes your judgement or what you think about something	ugly, horrible, beautiful, fantastic
Size	describes how big or small something is	huge, tiny, long, tall
Age	describes how old or young something is	old, new. young, ancient, antique
Shape	describes the shape of something	circular, square, triangular

Colour	describes the colour of something	black, red, pinkish, blue
Origin	describes where the noun is from	Chinese, Italian, American, African
Material	describes what the noun is made of	wooden, leather, plastic, metallic
Purpose	describes where the noun is used for	fishing, sleeping cooking, sports

Exercise: 1

Re-arrange the following adjectives to make a good sentence.

- 1. My friend gave me a silk blue soft scarf.**
- 2. I found a rectangular small wooden box in my sister's room.**
- 3. My classmate gave me Chinese ten orange small slimming gifts.**
- 4. I met a Vietnamese young funny girl last week.**
- 5. My mum accidentally broke my beautiful pink ceramic old mug.**

Exercise: 1- Answers

Re-arrange the following adjectives to make a good sentence.

1. My friend gave me a **silk blue soft** scarf.

 opinion colour material
N **O** S A S **C** O **M** P
 ↑ ↑ ↑
 soft **blue** **silk**



My friend gave me a **soft blue silk** scarf.



Exercise: 1- Answers

Re-arrange the following adjectives to make a good sentence.

2. I found a **rectangular small wooden** box in my sister's room.

		size		shape		material		
N	O	S	A	S	C	O	M	P
		↑		↑		↑		
		small		rectangular		wooden		



I found a **small rectangular wooden** box in my sister's room.



Exercise: 1

Re-arrange the following adjectives to make a good sentence.

3. My classmate gave me **Chinese ten orange small slimming** gifts.

number

size

colour

origin

purpose

N

O

S

A

S

C

O

M

P

ten

small

orange

Chinese

slimming



My classmate gave me **ten small orange Chinese slimming** gifts.



Exercise: 1

Re-arrange the following adjectives to make a good sentence.

4. I met a **Vietnamese young funny** girl last week.

 opinion age origin
N **O** S **A** S C **O** M P
 ↑ ↑ ↑
 funny **young** **Vietnamese**



I met a **young funny Vietnamese** girl last week.



Exercise: 1

Re-arrange the following adjectives to make a good sentence.

5. Mum accidentally broke my beautiful pink ceramic old mug .

	opinion		age		colour		origin	
N	O	S	A	S	C	O	M	P
	↑		↑		↑		↑	
	beautiful		old		pink		ceramic	



Mum accidentally broke my beautiful old pink ceramic mug.



The general order of adjectives before a noun is the following

opinion	size	age	shape	colour	origin	material	purpose	noun
ugly	small	old	thin	red	Italian	cotton	sleeping	bag
beautiful			long	white	French	silk	wedding	dress
	large	ancient			Greek	wooden	dining	table

The general order of adjectives before a noun is the following

opinion	size	age	shape	colour	origin	material	purpose	noun
ugly	small	old	thin	red	Italian	cotton	sleeping	bag

It's an ugly old thin red Italian cotton small sleeping bag.



It's **not common** to have so **many adjectives** before a noun but this is an **example** to show the **correct order of the adjectives**



The general order of adjectives before a noun is the following:

Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Color	Origin	Material	Purpose	Noun
ugly	small	old	thin	red	Italian	cotton	sleeping	bag
beautiful	--	--	long	white	French	silk	wedding	dress
--	large	ancient	--	--	Greek	clay	flower	vases

O S A S C O M P

OPINION

Attitude / Observation

delicious, lovely, nice, cool

SIZE

Size / Height

big, small, tall, huge, tiny

AGE

How old is it?

old, young, new, antique

SHAPE

Shape / Weight / Length

round, square, long, fat

COLOR

Color / Approximate Color

green, blue, reddish, purple

ORIGIN

Where is it from?

American, British, Indian, Turkish

MATERIAL

What is it made of?

gold, wooden, plastic, synthetic

PURPOSE

What is it used for?

gardening, shopping, riding

Before adjectives + noun we normally have a *determiner*:

- a, an, the, my, your, her, four, this, those, some, etc.

Examples: - a wonderful large round Spanish marble table.

- my brown leather riding boots - the little old man

The general order of adjectives before a noun is the following

opinion	size	age	shape	colour	origin	material	purpose	noun
ugly	small	old	thin	red	Italian	cotton	sleeping	bag
beautiful			long	white	French	silk	wedding	dress
	large	ancient			Greek	wooden	dining	table



What type of a dress
is it ?



opinion shape colour origin material origin
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
It's a **beautiful** **long** **white** **French** **silk** **wedding** dress.

IMPORTANT

The **order of adjectives** before a noun is **NOT 100%**

FIXED. This chart is **only a guide** and is the order that is preferred. You may see or hear **slight variations** of the order of adjectives in real life though what appears in the chart is the order that is expected the most.



Order of Adjectives

When there are more than one adjective modifying the same word, they are usually placed in a certain order.

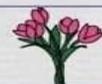
1. **DETERMINER:** A, an, the, this, that, these, those, my, your, every, some,...



The sun



2. **OPINION:** Good, bad, beautiful, horrible, comfortable, disgusting, nasty, brilliant...



Beautiful flowers



3. **SIZE:** Huge, big, large, tiny, enormous, little, tall, long, gigantic, small, short, ...



Tall building



4. **SHAPE:** Round, square, thin, flat, wavy, triangular, zigzag, winding, serpentine, ...



Round ball



5. **AGE:** Old, new, young, ancient, antique, teenage, mature, fashioned, youthful, ...



Young man



6. **COLOR:** Red, white, pink, orange, gray, brown, purple, yellowish, tanned, pastel,...



Pink panther



7. **ORIGIN:** British, American, Chinese, Spanish, northern, oceanic,...



Chinese dragon



8. **MATERIAL:** Golden, wooden, glass, paper, silk, plastic, concrete, fabric, silicon, leather...



Paper bag



9. **PURPOSE:** Tennis, riding, fishing, dancing, writing, sleeping, racing, swinging, rolling, folding...



Tennis racket



THE ROYAL ORDER OF ADJECTIVES



Determiner	Observation	Physical Description				Origin	Material	Qualifier	Noun
		Size	Shape	Age	Color				
a	beautiful			old		Italian		touring	car
an	expensive			antique			silver		mirror
four	gorgeous		long-stemmed		red		silk		roses
her			short		black				hair
our		big		old		English			sheepdog
those			square				wooden	hat	boxes
that	dilapidated	little						hunting	cabin
several		enormous		young		American		basketball	players
some	delicious					Thai			food

Exercise 2

1. Which sentence uses the correct order of adjectives?



- a) My brother rode a beautiful big black Friesian horse in the parade.
- b) My brother rode a beautiful Friesian big black horse in the parade.
- c) My brother rode a big, black beautiful Friesian horse in the parade.

Answer: a



2. Which sentence uses the correct order of adjectives?



- a) During my college years, I wore a red white and black big hat to sporting events.
- b) During my college years, I wore a big red black and white hat to sporting events.
- c) During my college years, I wore a red big white and black hat to sporting events.

Answer: b



3. Which sentence uses the correct order of adjectives?



- a) Our grandparents drive a motorhome with black and white stripes.
- b) Our grandparents drive a motorhome with black with white stripes.
- c) Our grandparents drive a motorhome with black white stripes.

Answer: a



4. Which sentence uses the correct order of adjectives?



- a) I like that really big red old antique tractor in the museum.
- b) I like that really big old red antique tractor in the museum.
- c) I like that old red really big antique tractor in the museum.



Answer: b

For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank.



5. My grandmother lives in the _____ house on the corner.

- a) little blue green and white
- b) little blue and green and white
- c) little blue white and green

Answers: a) – little blue green and white



For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank.



6. The store carries an assortment of _____ objects.

- a) interesting new old and antique
- b) new old interesting and antique
- c) interesting old and new and antique

Answers: b) – interesting new old and antique



For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank.

7. We went for a two-week cruise on an _____ ocean liner.



- a) incredible brand-new huge Italian
- b) incredible huge brand-new Italian
- c) Italian incredible brand-new huge



Answers: c) – incredible huge brand-new Italian

For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank.



8. My dad was thrilled with his gift of _____ bowties for his clown act.

- a) three squirting new nice big polka-dotted
- b) three polka-dotted nice new squirting
- c) three nice big new polka-dotted squirting

Answers: c)– three nice big new polka-dotted squirting



For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank



9. Please put the marbles into that _____ box.

- a) round little old red
- b) little old round red
- c) little old red round

Answers: b) – little old round red



For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blanks.

10. I've been spending a lot of time in antique shops looking for the perfect _____ clock.

- a) little silver Italian cuckoo
- b) little Italian silver cuckoo
- c) silver little Italian cuckoo

• **Answers: a – little silver Italian cuckoo**



- For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank:

11. I was surprised to receive a _____ puppy for my birthday.

- a) little cute eight-week-old golden retriever
- b) cute eight-week-old little golden retriever
- c) cute little eight-week-old golden retriever



- **Answer: c– cute little eight-week-old golden retriever**

- For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank.

12. I bought a pair of _____ boots.

- a) new nice red rain
- b) nice new red rain
- c) red nice new rain



Answers: a – nice new red rain

For each of the following sentences, choose the correct order of adjectives to fill in the blank:

13. Our work uniform consists of black pants, black shoes, and a _____ shirt.

- a) yellow baggy big polo
- b) big baggy yellow polo
- c) baggy yellow big polo



- **Answer: b – big baggy yellow polo**

Exercise: 3

Using the knowledge we acquired, we'll re-order the adjectives

- 1. a black new car.**
- 2. an old interesting book.**
- 3. French delicious food.**
- 4. an old silly cat.**
- 5. an American big red**
- 6. red beautiful shoes.**
- 7. a Japanese tall girl.**
- 8. a chocolate delicious round.**



Using the knowledge we acquired, we'll re-order the adjectives

- 1. a new black car.**
- 2. an old interesting book.**
- 3. French delicious food.**
- 4. a silly old cat.**
- 5. a big red American.**
- 6. red beautiful shoes.**
- 7. a tall Japanese girl.**
- 8. a delicious round chocolate.**

**We'll check the
answers**





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Thank You!



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