

### Adjectives

An **adjective** is a word or group of words, set of words, that **modifies** (i.e., describes) a noun or pronoun. Els adjectius van al davant de la paraula a la que modifiquen.

#### Examples:

*That is a **cute** puppy.*

*She likes a **high school** senior.*

Els Adjectives may also follow the word they modify:

#### Examples:

*That puppy looks **cute**.*

*The technology is **state-of-the-art**.*

**Rule 1.** Avoid the trap of *-ly* with linking verbs, such as *taste*, *smell*, *look*, *feel*, etc., that pertain to the senses. Adverbs are often misplaced in such sentences, which require **adjectives** instead.

#### Examples:

*Roses smell **sweet**/sweetly.*

Do the roses actively smell with noses? No; in this case, *smell* is a linking verb—which requires an adjective to modify *roses*—so no *-ly*.

*The woman looked **angry**/angrily to us.*

Did the woman look with her eyes, or are we describing her appearance? We are describing her appearance (she appeared angry), so no *-ly*.

*The woman looked angry/**angrily** at the paint splashes.*

Here the woman actively looked (used her eyes), so the *-ly* is added.

*She feels **bad**/badly about the news.*

She is not feeling with fingers, so no *-ly*.

**Rule 2.** The word *good* is an adjective, whose adverb equivalent is *well*.

#### Examples:

*You did a **good** job.*

*Good* describes the job.

*You did the job **well**.*

*Well* answers *how*.

*You smell good today.*

*Good* describes your fragrance, not how you smell with your nose, so using the adjective is correct.

*You smell well for someone with a cold.*

You are actively smelling with your nose here, so use the adverb.

**Rule 3.** The word *well* can be an adjective, too. When referring to health, we often use *well* rather than *good*.

**Examples:**

*You do not look well today.*

*I don't feel well, either.*

**Rule 4.** Adjectives come in three forms, also called **degrees**. An adjective in its normal or usual form is called a **positive degree adjective**. There are also the **comparative** and **superlative** degrees, which are used for comparison, as in the following examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
<i>sweet</i>	<i>sweeter</i>	<i>The sweetest</i>
<i>bad</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>The worst</i>
<i>efficient</i>	<i>more efficient</i>	<i>The most efficient</i>

A common error in using adjectives and adverbs arises from using the wrong form of comparison. To compare two things, always use a **comparative** adjective:

**Example:** *She is the **cleverer** of the two women (never cleverest)*

The word *cleverest* is what is called the **superlative** form of *clever*. Use it only when comparing three or more things:

**Example:** *She is the **cleverest** of them all.*

**Incorrect:** *Chocolate or vanilla: which do you like best?*

**Correct:** *Chocolate or vanilla: which do you like **better**?*

**Rule 5.** When *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* are followed by a noun, they are adjectives. When they appear without a noun following them, they are pronouns.

**Examples:**

*This house is for sale.*

*This* is an adjective.

*This is for sale.*

*This* is a pronoun.

### Adjective Clauses

An **adjective clause** (a group of words with at least one subject and one verb) is a subordinate or dependent clause that functions as an adjective. This type of clause answers the question, *Which one?* Relative pronouns, such as *who*, *whom*, *which*, and *that*, begin adjective clauses. At times, words such as *where* or *when* can also begin adjective clauses. If you delete the adjective clause from a sentence, you will still have a full (though less informative) sentence.

In the following sentences, the adjective clause is boldunderlined. Notice the word that begins the clause.

This extremely intelligent geologist, **who is also a talented juggler**, has been asked to visit the State Assembly later this month.

The street **that you live on** is scheduled to be repaved next month.

The movie director, **whom you read about last week**, will be promoting her new film throughout Europe.

There are essentially two types of adjective clauses—restrictive and unrestrictive clauses.

- A **restrictive (or essential) adjective clause** offers essential information that is necessary to complete the sentence's thought. An example of this is, "The trophy that was presented to you is enormous." Here, the adjective clause *that was presented to you* restricts the information to just that trophy.
- An **unrestrictive (or nonessential) clause** simply offers more information about the noun it describes. In the sentence, "The trophy, which was made in Canada, was presented to you," the adjective clause *which was made in Canada* is nonessential to the sentence. It just offers more information about the trophy.