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Adjectives for Every Day

Every time we describe a person, a place or an idea, we need to use adjectives. If you want to be more precise and more interesting to listen to, you need to know a lot of different adjectives.

On a scale of one to five, how would you rate your knowledge of adjectives?

Activity One - Let's do a quick test. Try and find as many adjectives as you can which describe the following:

Happiness Beauty Fashion Weather Furniture Personality

Activity Two – Here is a list of common adjectives. (Please look them up in the dictionary at home before the lesson if you don't know them. We are going to practice using them.

DESCRIPTIONS

Appearance Adjectives	Color Adjectives	Condition Adjectives	Feelings (Bad) Adjectives
adorable	red	alive	angry
beautiful	orange	better	bewildered
clean	yellow	careful	clumsy
drab	green	clever	defeated
elegant	blue	dead	embarrassed
fancy	purple	easy	fierce
glamorous	gray	famous	grumpy
handsome	black	gifted	helpless
long	white	helpful	itchy
magnificent		important	jealous
old-fashioned		inexpensive	lazy
plain		mushy	mysterious
quaint		odd	nervous
sparkling		powerful	obnoxious
ugliest		rich	panicky
unsightly		shy	repulsive
wide-eyed		tender	scary
		uninterested	thoughtless
		vast	uptight
		wrong.	worried

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Feelings (Good) Adjectives

agreeable
brave
calm
delightful
eager
faithful
gentle
happy
jolly
kind
lively
nice
obedient
proud
relieved
silly
thankful
victorious
witty
zealous

Shape Adjectives

broad
chubby
crooked
curved
deep
flat
high
hollow
low
narrow
round
shallow
skinny
square
steep
straight
wide.

Size Adjectives

big
colossal
fat
gigantic
great
huge
immense
large
little
mammoth
massive
miniature
petite
puny
scrawny
short
small
tall
teeny
teeny-tiny
tiny

Sound Adjectives

cooing
deafening
faint
hissing
loud
melodic
noisy
purring
quiet
raspy
screeching
thundering
voiceless
whispering

Time Adjectives

ancient
brief
early
fast
late
long
modern
old
old-fashioned
quick
rapid
short
slow
swift
young

Taste/Touch Adjectives

bitter
delicious
fresh
greasy
juicy
hot
icy
loose
melted
nutritious
rainy
rotten
salty
sticky
strong
sweet
tasteless
uneven
weak

Touch Adjectives

boiling
breeze
broken
chilly
cold
crooked
curly
damaged
damp
dirty
dry
dusty
filthy
flaky
fluffy
freezing
hot
warm

Quantity Adjectives

abundant
empty
few
full
heavy
light
many
numerous
sparse
substantial

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Adjectives – Word Order :

First a reminder about word order.

Sometimes we use **more than one** adjective in front of a noun:

He was a nice intelligent young man.
She had a small round black wooden box

Usually we put an adjective that gives an **opinion in front** of an adjective that is **descriptive**:

a nice red dress; a silly old man; those horrible yellow curtains

We often have **two** adjectives in front of a noun:

a handsome young man; a big black car; that horrible big dog

Sometimes we have **three** adjectives, but this is **unusual**:

a nice handsome young man;
a big black American car;
that horrible big fierce dog

Using adjectives from the list (without translating):

1. Describe how you are feeling today.
2. Describe the sound of the store-opening announcement each morning.
3. Describe the size of an average IKEA store.
4. Describe an EKTORP sofa.
5. Describe the texture of a FAKSE rug.
6. Describe the texture of a HALLSKAR rug.
7. Describe the texture of a HESSUM rug.
8. Explain how people feel about the credit crunch.
9. Describe two people who work in your department.
10. Describe yourself.
11. Describe how you felt when you passed your driving test.
12. Describe how you felt when you got your new job at IKEA.
13. Describe the weather today.
14. How would you feel if someone stole your bag?
15. How would you feel if you won the lotto?
16. How many people do you really trust?
17. How many people do you know?
18. What does punk music sound like?
19. What does Mozart sound like?
20. What is Paris like compared to Montpellier?

Now we will correct any pronunciation and stress errors.

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ACTIVITY Three – Read the paragraph using the correct stress.

Then identify and underline all of the adjectives and see if you can change the meaning of the paragraph by substituting these adjectives for others from the list.

I was feeling pretty cheerful when I got to work this morning even though it was raining and the weather was really bad. My feet were wet and. I had a pair of inexpensive shoes on which were really damp but I was determined to be courageous and to last out the day. I started to find my damp feet really annoying and uncomfortable half way through the afternoon and all I wanted to do was to go home and get into a nice hot bath. I was freezing. On the way home I had a horrible realisation. My glamorous friend Kate was coming for dinner and would want a really long conversation about all her boyfriends and her social life. I suddenly felt really grumpy at the idea of her coming and so I sent her a message to say I was not feeling well. When she called back sounding really worried I felt really ashamed!