

English Grammar

A brief review of

ADJECTIVES

for English 10.

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taken from <http://webster.comcast.edu/glossary/>

Adjectives

are words that describe or modify another person or thing (a noun or pronoun) in a sentence.

Adjectives

answer these questions

What kind?	How many?	Which one?
<i>Gold</i> Card <i>White</i> car	<i>Nine</i> people <i>Several</i> days	<i>Other</i> sister <i>Last</i> place

Articles*

a

an

the

are adjectives.

* *A* and *an* are indefinite, naming no particular noun or pronoun.

* *The* is definite, naming someone or something in particular.

ARTICLES & ADJECTIVES

the tall professor
the lucky lieutenant
a solid commitment

a month's pay

a six-year-old child

the unhappiest, richest man

Adjectives have degrees of comparison: **positive**, **comparative** and **superlative**. (Actually, only the comparative and superlative show degrees.)

positive	comparative	superlative
scary	scarier	scariest
good	better	best
bad*	worse*	worst*

*These forms are irregular. They do not follow the pattern.

We use the **comparative** for **comparing two things** and the **superlative** for **comparing three or more things**.

Notice that the word *than* frequently accompanies the comparative and the word *the* precedes the superlative. The suffixes *-er* and *-est* form most comparatives and superlatives, although we need *-ier* and *-iest* when a two-syllable adjective ends in *y*; otherwise we use *more* and *most* when an adjective has more than one syllable.

Proper Adjectives

When an **adjective** owes its origins to a **proper noun**, it should probably be capitalized.

Thus we write about *Christian* music, the *English Parliament*, the *Ming Dynasty*, *Jeffersonian* democracy. Some periods of time have taken on the status of proper adjectives: the *Nixon* era, a *Renaissance* poet. Directional and seasonal adjectives are not capitalized unless they're a title.

We took the *northwest* route during the *spring* thaw. We stayed there until the town's annual *Fall Festival of Small Appliances*.

Predicate Adjectives

follow the form of the "be" verb (or other **linking verbs**) and describe the **subject**.

This **room** **smells** *bad*.

I **feel** *great*.

A **victory** **seems** *unlikely*.

You **are** *weird*.

That's all for today's lesson on grammar.