

Descriptive Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives is the largest group among the types of adjectives. Descriptive adjectives describe the noun in detail by assigning an attribute of that noun. The list of descriptive adjectives is considered nearly unending as there are adjectives describing nearly every noun. Descriptive adjectives are primarily differentiated into simple adjectives and compound adjectives.

(1) Simple Adjectives

Simple adjectives are single words that are commonly used to describe a noun.

eg- *good, happy, bad, thin, etc*

(2) Compound Adjectives

Two or more adjectives, used consecutively, that describe the same noun, are known as compound adjectives. They are hyphenated to avoid confusion between the two adjectives. The most common compound adjectives are the ones when adjectives precede nouns like 'blue-sky' or when adjectives are preceded by verbs as in 'feel-good'. When two or more colors are used as adjectives, there is always a hyphen between them.

eg- *middle-aged, short-sighted, bluish-green*

If there is no hyphen between two adjectives, there can be an ambiguity in the meaning of the sentence. The following example will be beneficial to illustrate this.

eg- *A man-eating tiger.*

As the adjectives are hyphenated, it is clear that they describe the noun, 'tiger'. Now, consider the following example,

eg- *A man eating tiger.*

Here, there is no hyphen between the two words, neither are they considered adjectives. The sentence clearly means that a man is eating a tiger.

Usage of Descriptive Adjectives

When more than one descriptive adjective is used, there is a rule to be followed. The descriptive adjective is followed by the opinion adjective. To understand this, consider the following example. eg- *A beautiful, green emerald.*

In the above example, both 'beautiful' and 'green' are descriptive adjectives. But the adjective 'beautiful' is an opinion or a general adjective that may differ from person to person. On the other hand, 'green' is a specific adjective that defines an emerald. Therefore, when more descriptive adjectives have to be used, they should follow the manner illustrated below.

eg- *A black, wooden door. A nice, big bungalow.*

Predicate Adjectives

Predicate adjectives affirm an attribute of the subject. In simpler words, these adjectives modify the subject in the sentence. There is always a linking verb that connects the subject to the predicate adjective.

eg- *The cake is tasty.* - Here the predicate adjective 'tasty' describes the subject 'the cake'.

Participial Adjectives

When participles express a quality of the nouns i.e. participles function as adjectives, they are known as participial adjectives. There are two types of participial adjectives; the ones ending with 'ing' and the ones ending with 'ed'

eg- *The program was boring*

We were bored at the program.

The following is the list of descriptive adjectives that are categorized according to ones that describe qualities, personality traits, colors, sizes, shapes, sounds and feelings.

List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Appearance	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Personality	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Feelings
Adorable	Aggressive	Afraid
Attractive	Ambitious	Angry
Alluring	Amused	Anxious
Beautiful	Brave	Bad
Bewildered	Bright	Bored
Confident	Cruel	Calm
Cheerful	Combative	Confused
Cultured	Co-operative	Comfortable
Clumsy	Cowardly	Creepy
Drab	Dangerous	Depressed
Dull	Diligent	Disturbed
Dynamic	Determined	Dominating
Disillusioned	Disagreeable	Deceitful
Elegant	Evil	Envious
Fair	Frank	Faithful
Filthy	Fearless	Fine
Gentle	Generous	Good
Glamorous	Gifted	Grieving
Handsome	Helpful	Horrible
Homely	Harmonious	Happy
Hurt	Hesitant	Hungry
Ill-mannered	Instinctive	Ill
Jolly	Jealous	Jovial
Kind-hearted	Knowledgeable	Kind
Lovely	Loner	Lively
Magnificent	Mysterious	Mature
Nervous	Naughty	Nice
Pleasant	Pleasing	Proud
Perfect	Placid	Peaceful
Plucky	Punctual	Protective
Smiling	Successful	Sorrowful
Splendid	Sedate	Silly
Self-assured	Sincere	Sombre
Snobbish	Selfish	Sore
Thoughtful	Talented	Tired
Tense	Thrifty	Troubled
Timid	Truculent	Testy
Upset	Unbiased	Unwell
Vivacious	Voracious	Vengeful
Wonderful	Witty	Wicked
Worried	Wise	Weary
Wild	Warm	Wrong
Zaftig	Zany	Zestful
eg- What an <i>adorable</i> baby!	eg- He was a <i>brave</i> knight.	eg- She was in a <i>jovial</i> mood.

Following is a list of descriptive adjectives that describe shape, sound, size, time and quantity.

List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Shape	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Size	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Time	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Quantity
Broad	Big	Ancient	Abundant
Crooked	Colossal	Annual	Bountiful
Circular	Great	Brief	Cumbersome
Distorted	Gigantic	Early	Empty
Flat	Huge	Fast	Extra
Hollow	Large	Late	Few
Narrow	Miniature	Modern	Heavy
Round	Mammoth	Old	Myriad
Square	Petite	Rapid	Many
Skinny	Tall	Swift	Multiple
Steep	Thin	Slow	Numerous
Wide	Tiny	Young	Substantial
eg- A <i>skinny</i> boy	eg- A <i>miniature</i> train	eg- An <i>ancient</i> manuscript	eg- <i>Myriad</i> stars

The following descriptive adjectives list qualify nouns related to sound, taste, touch and color.

List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Sound	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Taste	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Touch	List of Descriptive Adjectives Describing Color
Blaring	Bitter	Hard	Azure
Cooing	Delicious	Loose	Aqua
Deafening	Fresh	Rough	Blue
Loud	Hot	Smooth	Black
Melancholic	Icy	Slippery	Crimson
Noisy	Juicy	Sticky	Cyan
Soft	Spicy	Sharp	Gold
Shrill	Sweet	Scattered	Green
Squeaking	Sour	Soft	Magenta
Silent	Salty	Tender	Orange
Thundering	Tasty	Uneven	Pink
Whispering	Tasteless	Wet	Turquoise
eg- <i>Blaring</i> loudspeaker	eg- <i>Delicious</i> pastry	eg- <i>Rough</i> surface	eg- <i>Green</i> diamond