

Adjectives

Reteaching

Adjectives modify nouns or pronouns. They describe or give more specific information about the meaning of the nouns they modify. Adjectives tell *what kind, which one, how many, or how much*.

vibrant color this painting many visitors more fame

Articles are the most common adjectives. **Indefinite articles** (*a* and *an*) refer to unspecified members of groups of people, places, things, or ideas. *The* is the **definite article**. It refers to a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

Proper adjectives are formed from proper nouns. They are capitalized and often end with *-n*, *-an*, *-ian*, *-ese*, or *-ish*. Some examples are *Panamanian*, *Chinese*, and *Spanish*.

Finding Adjectives

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Some words are modified by more than one adjective. Do not underline articles or possessive pronouns.

1. I have always appreciated good paintings and would love to own a huge collection by the biggest names in Western art.
2. The first artist I would pick is the incredible Leonardo da Vinci.
3. I believe he was the greatest artist of the Renaissance, the European revival of art and literature.
4. Da Vinci used perspective to create a three-dimensional space in a flat painting.
5. Perspective was a popular technique back then.
6. I would like a copy of the famous *Mona Lisa*, the mysterious woman with the teasing smile.
7. The next artist whose work I appreciate is the Italian painter called Titian.
8. Titian painted important people, including significant figures from the Bible or from classical Greek myths.
9. He also painted many portraits of wealthy people who paid him high fees.
10. The third painter I like is Jean-François Millet, a French artist who drew common people, not historical subjects.
11. Millet chose subdued shades for his paintings and avoided intense colors.
12. Next, I would choose some paintings by Paul Gauguin, who loved bright colors and exotic subjects.
13. Although Gauguin was a French citizen, he spent many years on the island of Tahiti.
14. Another French artist I like is Georges Seurat.
15. All of his pictures consist of tiny dots of pure color.
16. Because of his time-consuming style, he painted few pictures.
17. The overall effect of his paintings is enchanting.
18. Jackson Pollock's abstract paintings would be an interesting addition to my diverse collection.
19. His finished pictures are masses of dribbled and splattered paint.

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More Practice

A. Identifying Adjectives

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Some words are modified by more than one adjective. Do not underline articles. If the adjective is a proper adjective, circle it, too.

1. One crisp, autumn day in 1879, Don Marcellino de Sautuola was taking a walk with his young daughter.
2. They were walking near the Spanish town of Santander.
3. Don Marcellino headed toward the caves near Altamira where he had found bones and small pieces of flint four years earlier.
4. This time he found nothing and was preparing to leave when he heard the loud shouts of his daughter from some secret, dark place within the cave.
5. The little girl was staring at breathtaking pictures on the smooth roof of the cave.
6. Don Marcellino saw pictures of animals similar to the American bison.
7. These paintings were of huge animals, drawn with great skill and amazing detail.
8. Many paintings of more animals—deer, wild boar, and running horses—covered the ceiling and walls.
9. Some animals appeared in three vivid colors.
10. Don Marcellino realized these incredible pictures had been painted by prehistoric artists.
11. At that time, most experts dismissed the paintings as forgeries because of the realistic pictures and the vivid colors.
12. No one knows why prehistoric people painted these wonderful pictures.

B. Using Adjectives

Fill in the blanks with one or more adjectives to improve the descriptions of the mystery-story characters presented below.

The butler has gray, wavy hair and wears a faded jacket with a button missing. Lady Margery wears expensive jewelry and has a resonant voice.

(1) Lord James wears suits and scarves, and he is surprisingly _____. Penelope walks with tiny steps and wears her auburn hair in tight curls. **(2)** The maid wears a _____ uniform, and she speaks in a _____ voice. **(3)** Mr. Lunt is old, with _____ skin. **(4)** The visitor from the United States has _____ hair, _____ eyes, and a _____ laugh. Agatha has a mischievous smile, a messy appearance, and tangled hair. **(5)** Dr. Wooster seems quite _____.

Lesson 5

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Application

A. Writing Sentences with Adjectives

Revise these plain sentences by adding at least one adjective to each. You may also change articles as needed and add descriptive phrases and clauses. Write your new sentence on the line. Underline the adjectives you have added.

EXAMPLE I hung the picture.

I hung the colorful picture on the plain wall of my bedroom.

1. A group of people visited the art museum.

2. They saw a landscape of a mountain, trees, and a lake.

3. People liked the colors in the paintings.

4. The museum had a collection of pottery from Greece.

5. One room was filled with statues.

B. Revising with Adjectives

Read this simple paragraph. Then revise it, using adjectives to make its meaning clearer and more accurate. You may add phrases, clauses, or sentences as you wish. Write your new paragraph on the lines.

I decided to make a vase with pictures of butterflies on it. I slapped the clay on the potter's wheel, and, as the wheel started to spin, I attempted to mold the clay into a vase. Somehow, my vase turned into a bowl. I started to paint the butterflies, but the paint ran. My vase with butterflies had become a bowl with streaks.

