

Adjective Phrases

Adjectives serve as the heads of **adjective phrases** and can be accompanied by modifiers of their own.

I am **extremely** upset.

This is a **somewhat unusual** request.

The news is **quite shocking**.

We are **very excited**.

Adjective Practice for Review

An **adjective** is a word that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

★ *He likes **chocolate** cookies.*

Adjectives usually tell what kind, which one, or how many.

★ ***bright** penny, **these** oranges, **twelve** friends*

A **proper adjective** is an adjective that is formed from a proper noun. It always begins with a capital letter.

★ ***Asian** continent, **English** language*

★ The articles **a**, **an**, and **the** are called **limiting adjectives**.

Underline each adjective:

- 1) This old chair is comfortable.
- 2) We have read a funny story recently.
- 3) This heavy traffic creates many dangerous situations.
- 4) The eager sailors collected odd souvenirs at every port.
- 5) The tired, thirsty soldiers marched on.
- 6) This is my favorite book.
- 7) The solitary guard walked along the lonely beach.
- 8) We sat in the sixth row.
- 9) These damp matches will not strike.
- 10) Dan made French toast for breakfast.
- 11) Will you light those candles, please?
- 12) A red bird chirped loudly in the tall tree.
- 13) The heavy elephant sat down slowly.
- 14) A tour bus stopped at the pirate's cove.
- 15) The gorgeous model wore Italian leather.
- 16) We ate fresh seafood on our vacation.
- 17) Do you like mashed or baked potatoes?
- 18) She served Chinese food for dinner.

Comparing with Adjectives

The **comparative** degree is used when two people or things are being compared.

*Ian is **shorter** than Lee.*

The **superlative** degree is used when three or more people or things are being compared.

*Ian is the **shortest** person in the group.*

For all adjectives of one syllable and a few adjectives of two syllables, add **-er** to form the comparative, and **-est** to form the superlative.

*Smart --> **Smarter** --> **Smartest***

For some adjectives of two syllables and all adjectives of three or more syllables, use **more** or **less** to form the comparative and **most** or **least** to form the superlative.

*This test is **more** difficult than I expected. Carol is the **most** generous of all. Kate is **less** talkative than Tom. Mary is the **least** talkative of all.*

Adjective phrases can also be formed by:

1) completing an adjective

*She was **afraid to respond**.*

*I am **sorry to upset you**.*

2) "stacking up" together

*The **big red** house.*

*A **thin blue** line.*

3) compounds

*The day was **bright and breezy**.*

*He was **both somewhat lazy and mildly quiet**.*

Formative Assessment: Identify the adjective phrases.

- 1) I found a small glass bottle.
- 2) We are full of hope.
- 3) The idea was offbeat but brilliant.
- 4) These results are interestingly deceptive.
- 5) She considered your remark quite amusing.
- 6) A rather odd character appeared at my door.
- 7) The lecture was neither enlightening nor entertaining.
- 8) I'd love to meet a tall dark handsome stranger.
- 9) Anne seems unusually cheerful today.
- 10) The gardener planted a short round prickly bush in my yard.