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Adjectives 1: meaning

- a An adjective is a word that describes something or someone. The words *big* and *nice* are adjectives.
- b Sometimes it is difficult to remember how to spell an adjective because of the way it is pronounced. Such words need to be learnt by heart.
e.g. tough / rough / straight (pronounced 'tuff' / 'ruff' / 'strait')
- c Some common adjectives cause spelling problems because there are double letters within the word. Again, such words need to be learnt by heart.
e.g. sorry, possible, difficult, different, necessary, horrible, terrible
- d There are, however, some spelling rules which will make life easier for you when using adjectives.
- When the word *full* is added to another word, the last *-l* is dropped. That is why there is only one *-l* at the end of such adjectives as *careful*, *beautiful*, *awful*, *painful*...
 - When we add *-y* to a word ending in *-e*, the *-e* usually disappears.
e.g. grease – greasy; noise – noisy; rose – rosy; scare – scary
 - When we add *-y* to a one-syllable word that ends in one vowel + consonant, the consonant is doubled.
e.g. sun – sunny; fog – foggy; fun – funny

Note: There is no *-e* in front of the *-y*. Very few adjectives end in *-ey* (e.g. grey). Most words that end in *-ey* are nouns (e.g. monkey, turkey, donkey) rather than adjectives.

TASK

Look at the jokes below. How many adjectives can you find? Underline them.

- Secretary: What silly fool put these flowers on my desk?
 Boss: I did.
 Secretary: Oh, aren't they lovely!



- Customer: This chicken is terrible. I want the manager.
 Waiter: I'm sorry, sir. He's not on the menu.

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Adjectives 2: adjectives ending in *-ing* / *-ed*

- a Adjectives may end in *-ing* or *-ed*.
e.g. This lesson is boring. / I am bored.
- b To form such adjectives, we apply the same rules used for forming verbs ending in *-ing* or *-ed*. (see pages 99, 109)

When adding *-ing*, remember:

- we drop the *-e* if the word ends in a consonant + *-e*
e.g. amuse – amusing
- *-y* does not change
e.g. worry – worrying

When adding *-ed*, remember:

- if there is already an *-e*, just add *-d*
e.g. amuse – amused
- *-y* + *-ed* becomes *-ied* if there is a consonant in front of the *-y*
e.g. worry – worried

- c Adjectives ending in *-ing* are often used to describe what someone or something is like.
e.g. It is interesting. / He is good-looking. / He is charming.
- d Adjectives ending in *-ed* are often used to describe feelings.
e.g. I am pleased. / I am shocked. / He looks frightened.
- e Certain adjectives are so common that you should make absolutely sure that you do not misspell them. The following adjectives should be learnt by heart:
e.g. annoying – annoyed; boring – bored; depressing – depressed;
disappointing – disappointed; disgusting – disgusted;
embarrassing – embarrassed; exciting – excited;
frightening – frightened; horrifying – horrified; shocking – shocked;
surprising – surprised; terrifying – terrified;
worrying – worried; satisfying – satisfied

Note: If you say 'I am bored', it means that you find something not very interesting. If, on the other hand, you say 'I am boring', it means that you make other people bored.

TASK

Complete the sentences by rewriting each word in brackets so that it ends in either *-ing* or *-ed*.

- 1 I found the book very (bore).
- 2 I'm not (interest) in sport.
- 3 It's an (amaze) thing.
- 4 He wasn't (satisfy) with what I said.
- 5 It was quite an (amuse) film.
- 6 I'm sorry, but I'm not (amuse). That wasn't funny.
- 7 She is (annoy) with me because I didn't help her.
- 8 What's that (annoy) noise?
- 9 This report is really (please).
- 10 She had a (worry) expression on her face.

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Adjectives 3: making adjectives negative

- a Many adjectives can be made negative by adding a *prefix* to them. A prefix is a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a word to make a new word.
 e.g. happy – unhappy (*un-* = a negative prefix)



- b Which negative prefix goes with which adjective?
- *ir-*, *il-*, *im-*
 These three prefixes follow a particular pattern with some adjectives.
 - The prefix *ir-* is added to certain adjectives beginning with *r*.
 e.g. (ir)regular; (ir)responsible; (ir)relevant
 ⚡ Some exceptions: (un)reliable; (un)reasonable
 - The prefix *il-* is added to certain adjectives beginning with *l*.
 e.g. (il)logical; (il)legal; (il)literate
 ⚡ Some exceptions: (un)lucky; (un)limited

- The prefix *im-* is added to certain adjectives beginning with *m* or *p*.

e.g. (im)moral; (im)mature; (im)possible; (im)polite



Some exceptions: (un)popular; (un)pleasant

- *in-*, *dis-*, *un-*

These three prefixes do not follow a predictable pattern. The commonest prefix is *un-*. Adjectives taking *in-* and *dis-* should be learnt by heart.

e.g. • (in)accurate; (in)expensive; (in)effective; (in)efficient;
 (in)capable; (in)secure
 • (dis)loyal; (dis)honest; (dis)respectful; (dis)agreeable
 • (un)occupied; (un)necessary; (un)official; (un)acceptable

TASK

Write down one word in place of the two given. In each case, you will have to supply an adjective beginning with *il-*, *im-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *un-* or *dis-*.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 not possible = | 6 not important = |
| 2 not legal = | 7 not necessary = |
| 3 not regular = | 8 not mature = |
| 4 not honest = | 9 not patient = |
| 5 not usual = | 10 not visible = |

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Adjectives 4: adding *-er* / *-est* to an adjective

- a If an adjective ends in *-er*, this tells us that a comparison is being made.
 e.g. He is taller than his mother.
- b If an adjective ends in *-est*, this tells us that a particular person or thing is being singled out from a group of people or things.
 e.g. Paul is the tallest boy in the class.
- c We add *-er* or *-est* to one-syllable adjectives (e.g. fat, thin) and to two-syllable adjectives ending in *-y* (e.g. easy, pretty). For most other two-syllable adjectives and all polysyllabic adjectives, (as in d below) we use *more* and *most*.
 e.g. This chair is more comfortable than that one.
 This is the most interesting book I have ever read.
- d We apply the following rules when adding *-er* or *-est* to an adjective:
- For words of one syllable ending in *-e*, just add *-r* or *-st*.
 e.g. large – larger – largest; safe – safer – safest
 - For words of one syllable ending in one vowel + consonant, the final consonant is doubled.
 e.g. fit – fitter – fittest; thin – thinner – thinnest
 - For words of one syllable ending in two vowels + consonant, the final consonant is not doubled.
 e.g. great – greater – greatest; cool – cooler – coolest
 - When *-er* or *-est* is added to an adjective ending in a consonant + *-y*, the *-y* becomes *-i*.
 e.g. easy – easier – easiest; pretty – prettier – prettiest;
 lazy – lazier – laziest; dry – drier – driest

Note: All adjectives ending in *-est* are normally preceded by the definite article *the*.

TASK

Decide whether each adjective in brackets should end in *-er* or *-est*.
Then write out each sentence.

- 1 “What’s the (cheap) and (easy) way to see the world?”
“Buy an *altas*!”
- 2 “What is the (dirty) word in the world?”
“Pollution!”
- 3 “Which word grows (small) when you add letters to it?”
“I don’t know.”
“Short. When you add *-er* to short, it becomes (short)!”
- 4 Teacher: Do fish grow fast?
Waqar: I’ll say they do! My dad caught one last week and it gets
(big) every time he talks about it.
- 5 Teacher: What is the (large) species of mouse in the world?
David: A hippopotamouse!

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Adverbs 1: meaning

- a An adverb adds extra information to a verb (i.e. it modifies a verb).
e.g. He smiled.
He smiled nervously.
- b An adverb can strengthen or weaken an adjective.
e.g. He is ill. I was surprised.
He is seriously ill. I was slightly surprised.
- c An adverb can accompany a whole phrase or sentence.
e.g. Nobody was injured.
Fortunately, nobody was injured.

TASK**I Underline the adverbs in the following sentences:**

- 1 My younger sister sings beautifully.
- 2 The old man drove carefully.
- 3 The tall woman spoke quietly and calmly.
- 4 It rained heavily.




II Correct the following sentences:

- 1 He drove slow.
- 2 I was real glad to see her.
- 3 They beat us easy.
- 4 He spoke to her as gentle as possible.

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Adverbs 2: forming adverbs

- a An adverb ending in *-ly* is formed from an adjective.
 e.g. slow – slowly; quick – quickly
- b If an adjective already ends in *-l*, we will end up with *-lly*.
 e.g. real – really; careful – carefully
- c If an adjective ends in *-le*, we drop the *-e* and just add *-y*.
 e.g. incredible – incredibly; terrible – terribly; gentle – gently;
 idle – idly
- d If an adjective ends in *-e* (apart from *-le*), we usually keep the *-e*.
 e.g. safe – safely; nice – nicely; extreme – extremely
-  Exceptions: true – truly; due – duly; whole – wholly
- e If an adjective ends in a consonant + *-y*, we drop the *-y* and add *-ily*.
 e.g. steady – steadily; lucky – luckily; merry – merrily;
 temporary – temporarily; easy – easily; heavy – heavily;
 happy – happily; ready – readily
-  Exceptions: shy – shyly; sly – slyly; dry – dryly (or drily)
- f If an adjective ends in *-ic*, we add *-ally*.
 e.g. automatic – automatically; basic – basically
-  Exception: public – publicly

Note: Many adverbs end in *-ly* (e.g. greatly, really) but some do not (e.g. so, too, quite).