

Descriptive Adjectives

Introduction

1) An adjective is a word or set of words that modifies (i.e. describes) a noun (e.g. girl, boy etc.) or pronoun (e.g. we, it etc.). Adjectives may come before or after the word they modify.

*This is a **cute** cat. This cat is **cute**.*

2) There are many kinds of adjectives. Among them there is a category of descriptive adjectives. Descriptive adjectives describe nouns or pronouns in detail by giving an attribute to that particular word. They usually express things through the five senses (touch, taste, sight, smell, and sound).

*This is a **delicious** sandwich.*

Descriptive adjectives can be organized into the following categories according to their structure:

a) simple adjectives are the most basic type of descriptive adjectives. Aspects such as feelings, time, sound, quantity, taste, appearance, size, age, color, shape, and material are expressed through simple adjectives.

*It was a **beautiful** day yesterday. **Clear** sky, **sweet** smell of blossoming trees, **green** grass, **cheerful** people... It seemed as if the world had united to celebrate the coming of spring.*

b) compound adjectives are created when two words are combined to create a descriptive adjective. The two words are typically connected with a hyphen.

*Pam was a **baby-faced long-legged** girl.*

Short Story Dialogue

- I've heard that you are going to move abroad next month.
- Yes, that's true. We are going to **sunny** Spain.
- I think I know the reason behind this. After living here in **ice-cold** Finland you want something less **depressing** weather-wise.
- Yeah, exactly! We want to explore the **narrow** streets of Madrid, dine at **small family** restaurants, enjoy **magnificent** sunsets...
- You're going to love it there then!

Independent Practice - Descriptive Adjectives

1) Underline the descriptive adjectives in the following sentences.

- a. I saw a lovely young, good, intelligent, fascinating woman, such as I had never met before.
- b. ... to understand the mystery of this uninteresting, good, simple-hearted man, who argued with such wearisome good sense.
- c. ... and he kept near the more solid people, looking listless and superfluous, with a submissive, uninterested expression, as though he had been brought there for sale.

2) Form compound descriptive adjectives.

- a. If someone resembles a bird, he is
- b. If someone broke your heart, you are
- c. If you use your left hand to do everything, you are

3) Put the adjectives into the correct order.

a. Jim drew a picture of ... dragons. (three-headed, two)
b. Jack bought a/an ... ring. (diamond, expensive, engagement)
c. She was a ... lady. (self-centered, young)

Independent Practice: Answers - Descriptive Adjectives

1) Underline the descriptive adjectives in the following sentences.

- a. I saw a lovely young, good, intelligent, fascinating woman, such as I had never met before.
- b. ... to understand the mystery of this uninteresting, good, simple-hearted man, who argued with such wearisome good sense.
- c. ... and he kept near the more solid people, looking listless and superfluous, with a submissive, uninterested expression, as though he had been brought there for sale.

2) Form compound descriptive adjectives.

- a. If someone resembles a bird, he is **birdlike**.
- b. If someone broke your heart, you are **broken-hearted**.
- c. If you use your left hand to do everything, you are **left-handed**.

3) Put the adjectives into the correct order.

- a. Jim drew a picture of **two three-headed** dragons.
- b. Jack bought an **expensive diamond engagement** ring.
- c. She was a **self-centered young** lady.