

Proper 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 proper adjectives. Proper adjectives are formed from proper nouns and modify nouns and pronouns.

*I love **Italian** culture.*

A proper noun is the specific name used for any person, place, or thing. Proper adjectives typically look like their original proper nouns but have some sort of alternative ending in order to make them adjectives.

*He lives in **America**. (proper noun)*

*He likes **American** holidays. (proper adjective)*

Proper adjectives are derived from proper nouns. For this reason, they are capitalized.

*When she lived in China, Liz ate a lot of **Chinese** food.*

When a proper adjective has a prefix, the prefix itself is never capitalized (unless it is the first word of a sentence). However, the proper adjective itself is still capitalized.

*In **pre-Columbian** America corn was the only cultivated cereal.*

The most common endings for nationalities are *-ian/-ean/-an*, *-ic*, *-ese*, *-i*, *-ish*. The reason that English has so many endings for different nationalities is that they were borrowed from other languages.

-ian/-ean/-an	-ic	-ese	-i	-ish
Italian	Icelandic	Chinese	Iraqi	Danish
Korean	Nordic	Japanese	Israeli	Finnish
Moroccan	Hispanic	Portuguese	Pakistani	Irish

Short Story Dialogue

- *Do you know that Kelly works at a **Mexican** restaurant?*
- *Yeah? But I know that she doesn't event like **Mexican** food!*
- *That's true, but we don't have any **European** or **Asian** restaurants here.*
- *Actually, I heard that some **French** place is going to open in a month or two.*
- *Really? I think she would love to work there. Her cooking skills are excellent!*

Independent Practice - Proper Adjectives

1) Decide whether the adjectives should be capitalized in the following sentences.

- a. She's been reading buddhist/Buddhist teachings.
- b. Painting originated in prehistoric/Prehistoric times.
- c. An anti-theft/anti-Theft backpack holds just about anything you need while keeping it all safe with enhanced safety features.
- d. He was described as a real renaissance/Renaissance man.

2) Form proper adjectives.

- a. (*France*) toasts may be eaten as a dessert in France.
- b. Billy likes reading (*Greece*) myths.
- c. Have you ever tried traditional (*Ireland*) stew?
- d. The band plays (*Christ*) music.
- e. I'd like to try (*Belgium*) waffles.
- f. The (*Edward*) era of British history covers the brief reign of King Edward VII.

Independent Practice: Answers - Proper Adjectives

1) Decide whether the adjectives should be capitalized in the following sentences.

- a. She's been reading buddhist/**Buddhist** teachings.
- b. Painting originated in **prehistoric**/Prehistoric times.
- c. An **anti-theft**/anti-Theft backpack holds just about anything you need while keeping it all safe with enhanced safety features.
- d. He was described as a real renaissance/**Renaissance** man.

2) Form the proper adjectives.

- a. **French** toasts may be eaten as a dessert in France.
- b. Billy likes reading **Greek** myths.
- c. Have you ever tried traditional **Irish** stew?
- d. The band plays **Christian** music.
- e. I'd like to try **Belgian** waffles.
- f. The **Edwardian** era of British history covers the brief reign of King Edward VII.