

Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives can be used to describe or limit a noun or pronoun. Some articles can be adjectives.

Describe:

A descriptive adjective expresses the quality or type of the noun.

Example: A *pretty* girl.

The adjective, *pretty*, describes the noun (girl).

When using more than one adjective to describe a noun or pronoun, separate the adjectives with a comma.

Example: The big, shaggy dog ran away from the tired, frustrated, angry dog walker.

Limit:

A limited adjective points out a number or quantity. There are four classes of limiting adjectives:

1. Demonstrative: *this* man, *that* lady, *these* books
2. Possessive: *my* book, *his* sister, *their* uncle
3. Numerals: *two* men, *many* people, *any* book, *some* things
4. Articles: a, an, the are used to describe either a definite or indefinite designation

Example: The man ran away from the scene of the crime.

(use of “the” designates one particular man)

A man ran away from the scene of the crime.

(use of “a” or “an” for a word starting with a vowel, does not designate any particular man)

Comparison of Adjectives:

Adjectives have different forms used to express different levels of quality or quantity:

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
cheap	cheaper	cheapest
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst

Adjectives with more than three syllables should not change – instead of using the “er” or “est” form, these adjectives should use “more” or “most.”

Example: My more memorable event was the day of the wedding. Not memorabler event

The most beautiful sunset followed a perfect day on the beach. Not the beautifullest sunset

Adverbs

Adverbs are used to modify or show the degree of comparison for a verb, adjective, or another adverb.

Modify:

To modify the meaning of a verb, adjective, or another adverb, add “-ly” to the end of an adjective.

Adjective “slow” becomes an adverb “slowly” when adding “ly.”

Example of an adjective: The turtle was *slow*. Here, *slow* is an adjective describing the turtle.

Example of an adverb: The turtle moved *slowly*. Here, “ly” was added to the adjective “slow” to form the adverb “slowly.” Slowly now modifies the verb “moved.”

Compare:

Adverbs can show degrees of comparison like the adjective being modified.

Example: Beautifully, more beautifully, or most beautifully

Consider: The pianist played *beautifully*.

The violinist played *more beautifully*.

The singer performed *most beautifully*.

These adverbs compare the performances of three musicians.