

ADJECTIVE

In linguistics, an adjective is a describing word, the main syntactic role of which is to qualify a noun or noun phrase, giving more information about the object signified.

ETYMOLOGY

- Adjective comes from Latin (nōmen) adjectivum "additional (noun)", a calque of Ancient Greek: ἐπίθετον (ὄνομα) epítheton (ónoma) "additional (noun)".

Types of use

For example:

- That's an interesting idea. (attributive)
- That idea is interesting. (predicative)
- Tell me something interesting.
(postpositive)
- The good, the bad, and the ugly.
(substantive)

ADJECTIVE

Attributive adjective

are part of the noun phrase headed by the noun they modify.

For example:

"I saw three happy kids", and "I saw three kids happy enough to jump up and down with glee."

Predicative adjective

are linked via a copula or other linking mechanism to the noun or pronoun they modify.

For example:

"They are happy" and in "that made me happy."

Nominal adjective

act almost as nouns. One way this can happen is if a noun is elided and an attributive adjective is left behind.

For example:

"happy one" or "happy book".

Linguists today distinguish determiners from adjectives, considering them to be two separate parts of speech (or lexical categories), but formerly determiners were considered to be adjectives in some of their uses.

Determiners are words that are neither nouns nor pronouns, yet reference a thing already in context.

Adjective order

Adjective

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>1. Determiners</u> | <u>2. Observation</u> e.g., a real hero, a perfect idiot | <u>3. Size and shape</u> e.g., wealthy, large, round | <u>4. Age</u> e.g., young, old, new, ancient, six-year-old |
| <u>5. Color</u> e.g., red, black, pale | <u>6. Origin</u> e.g., French, American, Canadian | <u>7. Material</u> e.g., woolen, metallic, wooden | <u>8. Qualifier</u> e.g., rocking chair, hunting cabin, passenger car, book cover |

Comparison of adjectives.

In many languages some adjectives are comparable

For example: “polite”, “more polite”,
“most polite”.

Adjective.

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graph TD; A[Adjective.] --> B[Comparison]; A --> C[Superlative]; B --> D["Great + er = Greater"]; C --> E["Great + est = Greatest"];
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Comparison

Great + er
=
Greater

Superlative

Great + est
=
Greatest

Irregular:

Good

Bad

Little

Better

Worse

Less

Best

Worst

Least

Some adjectives can have both regular and irregular variations:

“old”

“older”

“oldest”

“old”

“elder”

“eldest”

With word “more”, “most”:

“more beautiful”

“most beautiful”

“more interesting”

“most interesting”

Thank you for the attention!