

ADJECTIVE

Productive suffixes

- able	comfortable/ regrettable/ preferable/ reliable/lovable/ agreeable/manageable/noticeable
- al	cultural/ medical/ musical/economical/ historical
- ible	legible/ visible/ sensible
- ic	heroic/ economic/ scientific/historic
- ish	childish/ foolish/ selfish/ yellowish/ reddish
- ive	attractive/ expensive/ productive
- ful	beautiful/ playful/ wilful/ skilful/ useful
- less	careless/ helpless/ useless
- ly	lonely/ deadly/ elderly/ likely/ lively/ugly/ friendly/ early/ lovely/goodly/ poorly
-ous	courageous/ spacious/vigorous/ piteous
-y	curly/ funny/ muddy/woolly/ icy/ stony/ pearly/ silvery/ silky/ grassy/ woody/ snowy

compare:

MADE OF	LOOKING LIKE/ RESEMBLING
A gold watch/ring	Golden memories/ anniversary
Silk stockings	Silken skin
A lead pipe/ zeppelin	A leaden sky
A stone roof	A stony silence/face/road
A pearl necklace	Pearly teeth
A wax candle	Waxen pallor

Participles used adjectivally

-ing	-ed
alarming	alarmed
amazing	amazed
amusing	amused
boring	bored
disappointing	disappointed
embarrassing	embarrassed
fascinating	fascinated
daring	badly/well-behaved
deafening	well-built/-dressed/-educated
heartening	conceited
enterprising	distinguished
entertaining	balanced

The order of adjectives

Deter miner	Opini- on or Epi-th et	Size Physi- al quali-t y Shape Age	Colour	Partici pial adjec- tives	Origin	Material or Substan- ce	Type	Purpose	Noun
An		old		wash- ed -out		plastic		shopping	bag
My	favou- rite		green		Veneti an	glass			ashtray
This	frighte ning		black		Korea n			ritual	mask
A	handy	oval	green		Chine- se		digi-t al	alarm	clock

Adjectives in the noun-phrase

1. **Attributive** position (before a modified noun):

e.g. A **big red** scarf was hiding her face

2. **Predicative** position (after the link-verb):

e.g. She was hiding her face in the red scarf that **looked** too **big** for her

Most adjectives may be used BOTH ways, **BUT:**

Adjectives used ONLY

predicatively

Predicative adjectives	Their attributive counterparts
His mother is ill/unwell/well	His sick/ healthy mother
She is feeling poorly	He gave a faint smile There is a faint hope to do it
The child is afraid	It's a frightened child
These two men are alike These problems are alike	- These are similar problems
He is alive!! The tree is alive	- It's a living tree
The old lady lives alone	She is a lonely old lady
I am ashamed	-
The dog is asleep	Let sleeping dogs lie
Now it's awake	-
Are you aware of the danger?	-
I am sorry	-

Adjectives used ONLY attributively

Attributive adjectives	
My elder/ eldest brother is a student	My elder/ eldest brother is five years older than me
Our chief/ main/ principal reason for abandoning this project was financial	-
Jane is a mere child	-
These expenditure was a sheer waste of money	-
This man is an utter/ complete/ perfect fool	The work is now complete/ perfect

Gradable and Ungradable Adjectives

VERY/ EXTREMELY + GA	ABSOLUTELY/ TOTALLY + UA
deeply, fairly, hugely, immensely, rather, reasonably, slightly	completely, entirely, simply, utterly
+	+
able, angry, big, busy, beautiful, comfortable, common, happy, important, young, quiet, rich, strong, sarcastic, small , ugly, etc	amazed, awful, dreadful, equal, favourite, furious, huge, ideal, impossible, invaluable, little , terrible, wonderful, useless, unique, etc
Gradable adjectives can form the degrees of comparison or be used with adverbs such as very/extremely to say that a thing/person has more or less of a particular quality	Ungradable adjectives themselves imply “to a large degree” or some other ungradable quality, thus they cannot form the degrees of comparison
E g She was extremely rich, the richest person in town	E g He gave us a completely impossible problem to solve E g All animals are equal , but some

Types of Comparison

With GRADABLE adjectives, three types of comparison are possible:

- → to ***a higher degree*** (positive/ comparative/ superlative)
- ↔ ***the same degree*** (as ... as/ not so ... as)
- ← to ***a lower degree*** (less/ least)

The Degrees of Comparison

SHORT (1/2-syllable adj)	LONG (2+ syllable adj)	SPECIAL
-er/-est	more/most	Suppletive forms
1. Most monosyllabic words cheap-cheaper-cheapest big-bigger-biggest late-later-latest cruel-crueller- cruellest dry-drier-driest grey-greyer-greyest	1. Three monosyllabic words: <i>like</i> - more/most like <i>real</i> -more/most real <i>tired</i> -more/most tired George is more like his father than like his mother	good - better - best well bad ill - worse-worst poorly far –farther- farthest further – furthest old –older-oldest elder-eldest
2. Two-syllable adjectives in -y happy-happier-happiest untidy-untidier-untidiest	2 Most of two-syllable derived adjectives careful-more/most careful helpless-more/most helpless	2. Compound adjectives with good/well/fine as the first element Good-looking-better-/best - looking

The Degrees of Comparison in Collocations

Positive	Comparative (TWO things to compare)	Superlative (MORE than two things to compare)
As... as Not so ... as She is as beautiful as her mother, but not so determined as her father	bigger/more beautiful than	The best available/ money can buy/possible/ imaginable/ we have/ to be found
too big You are too big to be treated like a child He will be only too tired to notice your absence	a great deal younger Her last husband was a great deal younger than her son.	By far the best She was by far the camp's best swimmer. — Она плавала намного /на порядок лучше всех в лагере.
big enough You are big enough for me to treat you like my equal	still younger Ten years ago you looked young, but now you look still younger . How do you	

Tricky cases

<p>latest - most recent Yorkshire terriers are the latest fad of it-girls</p>	<p>last - previous (about time) прошлый Last Christmas I spent at my ex's. I do hope that was the last Christmas we spent together</p>	<p>the last - final, последний Actor: Did you see my last film? Actress: I hope so!</p>
<p>nearest – very close, nearby Where is the nearest convenience store</p>	<p>next – the following (about time) I am leaving next week</p>	<p>the next – the next(by order) Try to concentrate, you are the next to speak</p>

Substantivized Adjectives/Adjectival Nouns

Meaning	Pattern	Example
Names of colours/shades of colours in the generic meaning	⊗ (the zero article)+N (Golden Rule#2)	⊗ Red doesn't match you at all, your colour is⊗ pink
Names of colours with particularizing attributes or specified by the situation	THE+(Limiting Attr)+N (Golden Rule#3)	The red of her lipstick is not very flattering, it's too glossy <i>In the sky</i> the blue was beautiful
Names of colours modified by estimating attributes	strange A + certain +N peculiar (see Article, Part 2, slide 4)	The blood under her skin seemed to be a strange purple
Substantivized adjectives denoting generalized or abstract notions .	THE+N +IS/DOES (Singular agreement)	Why are you hiding in the dark ? The unknown IS intriguing but dangerous