

CORSO DI LAUREA IN GIURISPRUDENZA

Inglese Giuridico 2019-20

Lesson 3 – 31 March 2020

- Order of Adjectives and Adverbs

Order of Adjectives

Most adjectives are placed before nouns, respecting (more or less) the following order:

SIZE	AGE/TIME	SHAPE	COLOUR	ORIGIN/SOURCE	MATERIAL
little	recent	round	pink	Japanese	plastic
small	ancient	square	white	European	silk
short	old	twisted	green	Arabic	cotton
tiny	dated	oval	red	American	lace
big	brand-new	wedge-shaped	black	Victorian-style	leather
huge	modern	circular	blue	Chinese	glass

See: George Yule, 'The Study of Language'

- A subjective adjective (fantastic, wonderful, etc.) will generally be placed first.
- The most significant adjective is placed closest to the noun.
- Normally, no more than three adjectives are used before a noun.

Position of Adjectives

Adjectives can also be placed after the noun:

- The result was both satisfactory and convincing
- This is a smoke-free area.
- The project is becoming increasingly difficult.
- They appeared to be careful and efficient.
- They worked carefully and efficiently.

Position of Adverbs

Adverbs can (in theory) be placed at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a sentence:

Usually, prices increase before a holiday period.

Prices usually increase before a holiday period.

Prices increase before a holiday period usually.

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Position of Adverbs

Typical usage is:

First, we want to increase sales, then we need to improve margins.
Obviously, this is not easy.

Results usually improve in the second half of the year.
Results are usually better in the second half of the year.

Unemployment is increasing dramatically.
They resolved the problem quickly.

They always pay promptly.
Payment is always prompt.
They have never paid late.

Adverbial Openings

Having reviewed the past situation, the president moved on to the future plans.

Unlike last year, this year's sales are improving.

Given the current situation, this was surprising

Nevertheless, caution is recommended.

Looking to the future, we need to be more consolidated.

All in all, we can be satisfied.