

The background of the slide is a solid purple color, overlaid with a pattern of various colorful geometric shapes. These shapes include circles, ovals, and elongated rounded rectangles in shades of red, orange, yellow, light blue, green, and light purple. Some shapes are oriented diagonally, while others are horizontal or vertical. A dark teal rectangular box with a fine diagonal line pattern is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

Adjectives

04/11/2024

Homework

- Listen to some music in English this week
- Identify at least 2 multi-word verbs from songs you have listened to and add them to the glossary on Moodle.
- Identify the type of multi-word verb
- Give a definition (ideally 1 word).
- Give the example from the song
- Write your own example

Homework

Use the glossary on Moodle to complete the song lyrics.

1. You on like a light switch (me).
2. Love will apart, again (us).
3. No, they can't from me (that).
4. I get, but I get up again.
5. on my wayward son.

In this lesson...

- Learn about the characteristics of adjectives
- Common adjective suffixes
- Participle adjectives
- Inherent and non-inherent adjectives
- Order of adjectives
- Commas and adjectives

What's an adjective?

Adjectives are traditionally defined as 'describing words'. While this isn't wrong, lots of other word classes have descriptive qualities.

Let's look in more detail at adjectives.

What is an adjective?

- Many adjectives are **derived words** and can be identified by their suffixes.
- They have a typical adjective shape.
- Can you think of adjectives with these endings?

-able / -ible

-al

-ful

-ate

-ic

-ish

What is an adjective?

- Most adjectives are **gradable**.
- They can be used with **intensifiers** like *very, fairly, extremely*.

gradable

that extremely insightful book
she can be very superficial

non-gradable

a perfect tear-jerker!
a most perfect tear-jerker!
a unique page-turner
an extremely unique page-turner
her mother's ring was priceless
her mother's ring was absolutely priceless

Technically
adjectives like this
are the highest
point on the scale.
However, they are
often graded for
emphasis.

What is an adjective?

- Adjectives have comparative and superlative forms.

comparative

dark → darker

happy → happier

superficial → more superficial

superlative

dark → the darkest

happy → the happiest

superficial → the most superficial

What is an adjective?

- We can identify adjectives by where they appear in a sentence.

attributive

the insightful essay

the superficial film

predicative

the essay is insightful

the film seems superficial

We see this is
not the case for
nouns:

the newspaper boy
the boy is newspaper

copular verb
linking verb



Postpositive

- Some adjectives occur after the noun. They are called **postpositive** adjectives.
- They are often found in institutionalised expressions or are borrowings from another language
- Postposition is obligatory when the adjective modifies an indefinite pronoun.
- Some adjectives (often ible /-able) can ALSO appear in postpositive position in combination with **superlative adjectives** and with **first / last / next / only**.

expressions

the Princess **Royal**

pound **sterling**

she's a local fundraiser **extraordinaire**

pronoun

something **useful**

everyone **present**

those **responsible**

superlative

the **shortest** route **possible**

the **worst** conditions **imaginable**

the **first** man **available**

What is an adjective?

- Position: attributive **AND** predicative (some adjectives can also appear in a **postpositive** position)
- Subject to comparison
- Gradable

- Adjectives that fulfil all of these criteria are called **central adjectives**.
- Adjectives that do not fulfil all these criteria are called **peripheral adjectives**.

Some adjectives can be recognised by their endings.

What is an adjective?

- Adjectives that fulfil all of the criteria are called central adjectives.
- Adjectives that do not fulfil the criteria are called peripheral adjectives.

attributive

The atomic scientist



predicative

The scientist is atomic



comparative

The more atomic scientist



gradable

The very atomic scientist



Atomic is a peripheral adjective!

Central or peripheral?

- Look at the following adjectives. Are they central or peripheral?

Adjective	Attributive?	Predicative?	Comparative / superlative?	Gradable?	Central / peripheral?
new	✓	✓	✓	✓	central
main					
old					
asleep					
top					
unconscious					

Participle Adjectives

Participle Adjectives

invigorate (v)

in + vigo(u)r + ate
to give life / energy

invigorated (adj)

I feel invigorated.

Describes the result /
state / feeling

I have been invigorated

Invigorating (adj)

The hike was invigorating.

Describes a cause or
experience

Participle Adjectives

The -ing thing makes you feel – ed.

She was bored in the lesson. (feeling / result)

The lesson was boring. (experience / cause)

Tom felt isolated in the cabin. (feeling / result)

The cabin was isolated. (result – the cabin doesn't *feel* isolated)

Living in the cabin was isolating. (experience / cause)

General Rule

-ed = feeling / having been...

-ing = describing quality or function



Participle adjectives

- Present participle adjectives (-ing) often have an active meaning.
- Past participle adjectives (-ed) often have a passive meaning.

I always seem to play for the losing team

(the team which is losing)

She found the lost ring under the sofa

(the ring which had been lost)

- Remember that some past participle adjectives don't end in -ed (eg. misunderstood and lost).

Participle adjectives

- Most participle adjectives are derived from a verb (eg. irritating / irritated)
- Some are not, for example: renowned, talented, self-centred.
- A lot of participle adjectives with no corresponding verb are compound adjectives:

alcohol-based chemicals

battle-hardened soldiers

energy-saving devices

fact-finding mission

Participle adjectives

- Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between a participle being used adjectivally and verbally.

The workers are *striking*.

- to strike (v) - to not work as a form of protest.
- striking (adj) – impressive

The workers are very striking in their new uniforms.

The workers are striking about their new uniforms.

Verb or participle adjective?

Decide whether the following underlined words are verbs or participle adjectives. Use the characteristics of adjectives to help you: position / gradability / comparative / superlative

1. He told me a moving story about his childhood.
2. Our piano was tuned by a Mr Beethoven.
3. I spent four hours calculating your tax returns.
4. His new novel is open-ended.
5. The whole affair became terribly complicated.
6. The noise was annoying the neighbours.

Inherent and non-inherent adjectives

Adjectives

- Adjectives are notoriously hard to divide lexicographically into senses.
- They are often heavily context-dependent and flexible, taking on multiple meanings.
- For example 'light' = not heavy
= not intense
- These two meanings are intertwined
 - a light rain
 - a light blue shirt
 - a light lunch
 - a light suitcase
 - a light sleeper

Adjectives

- In these examples, sometimes 'light' is describing an attribute of the noun and sometimes it isn't.
 - a light rain
 - a light blue shirt
 - a light lunch
 - a light suitcase
 - a light sleeper

Inherent and non-inherent adjectives

- Adjectives usually denote an attribute or quality of the noun.
- They are **inherent adjectives**.
- When an adjective is NOT directly related to the noun we say it is **non-inherent**.

the old man
the man is old

The atomic scientist
The scientist **IS NOT** atomic

Inherent

an old man

a heavy burden

a complete chapter

Non-inherent

an old friend

a heavy smoker

a complete idiot

~~The friend is old~~

~~The smoker is heavy~~

~~The idiot is complete~~

Non-inherent adjectives in the dictionary

not young

- 2 ★ ⓘ A1 having lived for a long time; no longer young
- *to get/grow old*
 - *The old man lay propped up on cushions.*
 - *a little old lady*
- 5 ★ ⓘ A1 [only before noun] former; belonging to past times or a past time in your life
- *Things were different in **the old days**.*
 - *I went back to visit my old school.*
 - *Old and Middle English*
 - *People are still clinging to the old ways of thinking.*

Some dictionaries will tell you that an adjective only an **attributive / predicative position**.

Here we see some meanings of 'old' can only take an attributive position.

Inherent and non-inherent adjectives

Are the following adjectives inherent or non-inherent?

distant hills

a light sleeper

a small businesswoman

a heavy conversation

a distant relative

a close friend

Do you notice anything about the position on non-inherent adjectives?

Inherent and non-inherent adjectives

What do you notice about the position of inherent / non-inherent adjectives?

a light sleeper

the sleeper was light

a small businesswoman.

the businesswoman was small

a heavy drinker

the drinker was heavy

a distant relative

the relative was distant

a close friend

my friend is close

Ordering adjectives

Ordering adjectives

- When we have more than one adjective in a sentence, the adjective which is most permanent or important (usually the type or purpose) comes next to the noun.

1. I've bought a new mobile phone.

~~2. I've bought a mobile new phone.~~

- These type / purpose adjectives often classify the noun.
- Many are compound nouns formed by adj + noun.

highway

blackbird

real estate

mobile phone

Classifying adjectives

- Some adjectives describe what type of thing something is. They are often called **classifying adjectives**.

polar bear

Russian dolls

feminist separatist

what type of bear?
a polar bear?

- Unlike qualifying adjectives, these adjective aren't usually **gradable**.

~~*a very polar bear*~~

~~*an extremely Russian doll*~~

~~*a very feminist separatist*~~

- These **classifying adjectives** must come before the noun in the **attributive position**.

the white polar bear

the expensive Russian dolls

the teetotal feminist separatist

the polar bear was white

the Russian dolls were expensive

the feminist separatist was teetotal

Classifying adjectives

Re-order the sentences. Make sure to identify the classifying / purpose adjective(s).

1. Bollywood watching films she loved old
2. he new really jacket with his waterproof happy was
3. a packed paper his bag lunch in
4. the eucalyptus in garden tree a grew large
5. artistic example is this an Chinese the tradition of excellent
6. medieval Joan French of lived in a village Arc

Remember, classifying adjectives aren't gradable, don't have comparative / superlative forms and can't go in the predicative position.

Ordering adjectives

Look at these two sentences:

1. The heavy, bulky box was difficult to carry.
2. The old black-and-white film was boring.

Sentence 1 contains co-ordinate adjectives. Both 'heavy' and 'bulky' describe the box with equal importance. These are sometimes called qualitative adjectives, because they describe a quality.

Sentence 2 contains cumulative adjectives. They must be used in a certain order. These are often called classifying adjectives, because they help to classify the noun.

To comma or not to comma?

Look at these two sentences:

1. The heavy, bulky box was difficult to carry.
2. The old black-and-white film was boring.

Sentence 1 uses a comma between the adjectives.

Sentence 2 does not.

To comma or not to comma?

Does the sentence make sense if the adjectives are written in a different order?

Does the sentence make sense if the adjectives are written with *and* between?

If the answer is YES to both, then they are co-ordinating adjectives.

This means they have the same 'status'.

If the answer is NO, then they are cumulative adjectives.

They modify the same noun, but they have to follow a certain order.

Ordering adjectives

- On
- Saturdays
- And
- Sundays
- Cold
- Ovens
- Make
- Pastries
- Opinion
- Size
- Age
- Shape
- Colour
- Origin
- Material
- Purpose

The little old lady

The fantastic red rocket

Modern hiking trousers

Order the adjectives

- Opinion
 - Size
 - Age
 - Shape
 - Colour
 - Origin
 - Material
 - Purpose
- 1) He wants (some / French / delicious / really) cheese.
 - 2) He has (old / a lot of / interesting) books.
 - 3) She bought (plastic / a / red / new) lunchbox.
 - 4) She dropped (old / beautiful / the) plate and it smashed.
 - 5) She drank (black / Italian / hot) coffee.
 - 6) They stayed in (little / cute / a) cottage.
 - 7) I visited (ancient / spooky / German / a) castle.
 - 8) I need (computer / comfortable / a) desk.

To comma or not to comma?

Let's test it out...

The bulky heavy box was difficult to carry.

Can we put the adjectives in a different order?

The heavy, bulky box...



Can we write them with 'and'?

The heavy and bulky box...



To comma or not to comma?

Let's test it out...

The old black-and-white film...

Can we put the adjectives in a different order?

The black-and-white old film



Can we write them with 'and'?

The old and black-and-white film



To comma or not to comma

Where would you put a comma? If needed.

1. He was a difficult stubborn child.
2. They lived in a white wooden house.
3. She often wore a grey wool shawl.
4. Your cousin has an easy happy smile.
5. The relentless powerful summer sun beat down on them.
6. The relentless powerful oppressive sun beat down on them.
7. It was an insightful heart-wrenching book.
8. It was a superficial mind-numbing essay.

In pairs / threes
5 mins

Can I change the order?

Can I use 'and'?

then I need a comma!

Phrases

What is a phrase?

Phrases

- What is a phrase?
- Phrases are the building blocks of a sentence.
- Break the following sentence down into blocks:

the hungry puppy was chewing a juicy bone very noisily in the garden

the hungry puppy + was chewing + a juicy bone + very noisily + in the garden

noun
phrase

verb
phrase

noun
phrase

adverb
phrase

preposition
phrase

Phrases

- Each phrase has a key word, known as a **head word** or **head**.
- This tells us what type of phrase it
- The headwords can give us a basic 'skeleton' sentence

the hungry puppy + was chewing + a juicy bone + very noisily + in the garden

puppy chewing bone noisily garden

Noun phrases

- Adjectives can be used as premodifiers in a noun phrase
- Nouns can also be used as premodifiers. eg. the London experience / life insurance
- In theory, there is no limit to how many adjectives you can use, but often it's 2 or 3.
- When we talk about adjective phrases, we usually refer to adjectives in a predicative position.

British grass snakes + can be + rather dangerous.

pre-modifying
adjective



noun
phrase

verb
phrase

adjective
phrase

Phrases

Break the following sentences down into phrases. Specify what type of phrase it is.

- 1) The fluffy cat sat on the mat
- 2) The young girl was running very quickly towards the swings
- 3) The ugly duckling had turned into a beautiful swan
- 4) Suddenly, a giant dog appeared from behind the shed
- 5) The old teddy bear was quite disgusting
- 6) The children's playpark was very busy that morning.

noun
phrase

verb
phrase

adjective
phrase

adverb
phrase

preposition
phrase

in pairs / threes
5 mins

Thank you

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