



Girl, Woman, Other

Lesson Objectives

- Adjectives for describing books and films
- Read an extract from *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo.
- Learn about the characteristics of adjectives
- Commas and adjectives
- Zero-derivation / conversion, reduplication and borrowings

WINNER OF THE BOOKER PRIZE 2019

Bernardine Evaristo

Girl,
Woman,
Other

Women's
Prize for
Fiction
2020 25

Shortlisted

@WomensPrize

'Beautiful'
GUARDIAN

'Triumphant'
SUNDAY TIMES

'Exceptional'
STYLIST



Judging a book
by its cover

Compound adjectives

Which of the following adjectives are compound adjectives?

Vocabulary

1. page-turner
2. a snoozefest
3. fast-paced
4. slow-burner
5. insightful
6. superficial
7. tear-jerking
8. action-packed
9. heart-wrenching
10. thought-provoking
11. mind-numbing
12. spine-tingling

Compound adjectives

- Compound adjectives can be formed by lots of different word classes.

Word class + word class	Example
adjective + noun	long-distance
adjective + present participle	fast-talking
adjective + past participle	deep-fried
noun + past participle	sun-dried
noun + present participle	mouth-watering
number + noun	nineteenth-century
Noun + adjective	cruelty-free
Adverb + past participle	undercooked
Noun + noun	meat eater

Vocabulary

How are the following compound participle adjectives formed?

1. fast-paced
2. tear-jerking
3. action-packed
4. heart-wrenching
5. thought-provoking
6. mind-numbing
7. spine-tingling

adj + past participle

Hyphens

- Not all compound words require a hyphen.
- Often, whether we hyphenate a word changes over time.
- Most compound adjectives need hyphens, but there are still some exceptions.
- Closed compound adjectives like: undercooked, overcooked, overstuffed
- Open compound adjectives like: pro bono, reggae dub.
- Hyphen usage is in flux. If you're not sure, check in a dictionary.

Hyphens

- Use hyphens with compound numbers.

The teacher was sixty-three years old.

I can't believe this is still happening in the twenty-first century!

- When a compound adjective starts with an -ly adverb, it doesn't need a hyphen.

The neatly pressed trousers

Her overly affectionate aunt

The brightly lit room

Hyphens

- Use a hyphen when a compound adjective is placed *before* the noun it is modifying, i.e. in attributive position.

a well-known author

chocolate-covered peanuts

a one-way street

- However, don't use a hyphen when the compound adjective comes *after* the noun it is modifying, i.e. in predicative position.

the author is well known

these peanuts are chocolate covered

this street is one-way

Hyphens

Decide whether the following adjectives need hyphenating.

eg. She's a very person. (self / assured)

1. The student painted a stunning picture (unusually / talented)
2. The horror film was chilling and (spine / tingling).
3. We ate a meal at that restaurant. (second / rate)
4. I love literature from the century (twenty / first).
5. It was difficult to make friends in the.....community (tight / knit)
6. My..... grandmother still goes for a walk every day (ninety / five / year / old).
7. My grandmother, who is years old, goes for a walk every day (ninety / five)
8. She was uncomfortable in such a room (brightly / lit)

Reading

Girl, Woman, Other

Girl, Woman, Other

Read the extract and answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the name of the rural community where Dominique and Nzinga live?
- 2) Who is allowed to visit the community?
- 3) What is Nzinga's profession?
- 4) What was Dominique's profession before they met?
- 5) How do you think this relationship will continue?

Girl, Woman, Other

Research.

Look up the following terms using the Encyclopaedia Britannica ([link on Moodle](#)).

- 1) radical feminism
- 2) separatism
- 3) lesbian feminism

Girl, Woman, Other

Read the extract and answer the following questions.

1. What do you notice about Evaristo's use of punctuation?
2. How many adjectives are there in the first descriptions of Dominique and Nzinga (line 1 and lines 4-5)
3. What are the nouns they are describing?
4. Compare the descriptions of the rural community and London.
5. How many participle adjectives can you find?
6. Are there any comparative or superlative adjectives?
7. Can you find any compound adjectives?

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.
- Central adjectives have an order. Most native speakers don't know that they do this naturally.
- When we talk about **adjective phrases**, we usually refer to adjectives in a predicative position.



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

Other word-formation strategies

Conversion, reduplication, borrowings

Conversion / zero derivation

- Look at the words: radical, feminist, separatist, lesbian in isolation.
- Are they adjectives or nouns?
- They could be both!
- Conversion (or zero derivation) involves a change of word class without any alteration to the word.

She's a radical.

She really believes in radical feminism.

A hashtag is really useful for starting a conversation.

Some people find it annoying when you hashtag too much.

Conversion

Verbs from nouns

Julia Roberts co-starred with Hugh Grant.

Hugh Grant was Julia Roberts' co-star.

The critic rubbed the actor's performance.

The critic said the performance was rubbish.

Nouns from verbs

The thief made a quick lunge at the handbag

The thief lunged at the handbag.

Martin took his furniture to the dump.

Martin dumped his furniture.

Conversion

Adjectives to nouns

There was no doubt she was his equal.

There was no doubt they were equal.

Adjectives to nouns

The athlete tried to better his previous performance.

The athlete's performance was better.

Simultaneous

Some conversions appear to happen immediately.

photobomb

retweet

google

lesbian

Reduplication

Nzinga was a teetotal, vegan, non-smoking, radical feminist separatist lesbian housebuilder.

- Teetotal is probably a reduplication of the letter /t/ that begins total.
- In the early 1800s *tee-total* and *tee-totally* were used to intensify *total*.
- I'm tired with a capital T (I'm really tired)

Reduplication

- Some words are formed by reduplication: the doubling of the first element of a word.
- Reduplication can be partial.
- There can be consonant or vowel variation.

busy-busy

chop-chop

helter-skelter

flip-flop

hip-hop

Borrowings

she'd been swept up into its masculine (as Nzinga pointed out) metropolitan maelstrom ever since first arriving from Bristol

maelstrom is the Dutch word for 'whirlpool'

It's used in English to refer to anything turbulent or like a whirlpool

Identify the word formation technique

- Look at the following words. Identify the word formation technique.

zig-zag

kareoke

host

ping-pong

squirrel

knick-knack

café

phone

google

al dente

borrowing

conversion

reduplication

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Listening Homework

Listen to the interview with Bernardine Evaristo and answer the questions.

Answers next lesson.

Thank you

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