Continue



```
Home » Grammar » Adjectives usually follow the OSASCOMP rule: opinion, size, age, shape, color, origin,
material, and purpose. This helps you place adjectives in the right order without much hassle. What is the Order of Adjectives should appear before a noun. Using the correct order helps your speech and writing sound more fluent and understandable. Knowing this order is
particularly useful for non-native speakers or learners of English. It avoids confusion and ensures that your descriptions are precise and easy to follow. The typical order of Adjectives is known as the "Royal Order of Adjectives is known a
Descriptive words like beautiful, boring. Size: Words indicating size like small, large. Physical Quality: Descriptions of age like old, new. Color: Colors like red, blue. Origin: The place of origin like American, Chinese. Material: What something is made of like
wooden, metal. Type: Categories like general-purpose, emergency. Following this sequence ensures that your sentences are clear and logically structured. For example: "a beautiful small round old red Chinese wooden toy." Detailed Order of Adjectives to describe a noun, it's important to follow a specific order to make
your sentences clear and easy to understand. This order helps convey the most accurate description. Quantity or Number Adjectives that specify the number or amount of something come first. They can be exact numbers like one, two, three, or general amounts like many, several, and few. For example, in the phrase "three red apples," three is the
quantity adjective. Quality or Opinion These adjectives express your thoughts or feelings about the noun. Words like beautiful sunny day," beautiful is the opinion adjective. Size Adjectives that describe the size of an object come next. These
include words like big, small, tall, and short. Size helps give a clear visual image. For instance, in "big brown dog," big is the size adjective. Age Age-related adjectives follow size adjectives follow size adjectives. Words in this category include young, old, new, and ancient. They indicate how old something is. For example, in "new red car," new is the age adjective. Shape
Shape adjectives describe the form of an object. They include words like round, square, flat, and thin. Shape helps to specify the physical form. In "round golden coin," round is the shape adjective. Color Color adjectives describe the color of an object. These are red, blue, green, and so on. They are easy to understand and visualize. For example, in
"blue silk dress," blue is the color adjective. Proper Adjectives These adjectives come from proper nouns and usually describe origin or nationality. Examples include American, French, and Japanese. They offer specific information about where something comes from. In "Italian leather shoes," Italian is the proper adjective. Purpose or Qualifier The
final category includes adjectives that describe what something is used for. Common examples are sleeping in sleeping bag or walking in walking stick. These words tell you the function or purpose. For examples 1. Determiner Articles,
Possessives a, an, the, my, your, his, her 2. Quantity Number, Amount one, two, several, many, few 3. Opinion General Opinion beautiful, ugly, nice, horrible 4. Size Physical Size big, small, tall, short, enormous, tiny 5. Age Age of Noun old, young, new, ancient, modern 6. Shape of Form round, square, flat, oval, long, short 7. Color Color of
Noun red, blue, green, black, white, yellow 8. Origin Nationality, Place of Origin American, Chinese, French, Italian, Indian 9. Material What Noun is Used For sleeping (as in "sleeping bag"), cooking Related Descriptive Adjectives: Definition, Types, Examples and
Exercises Examples of Order of Adjectives When placing adjectives in a sentence, it's important to follow a specific order to make it sound natural. The typical Quality (thin, rough) Shape (round, square) Age (old, new) Color (red, blue) Origin
(American, Chinese) Material (wooden, metal) Purpose (sleeping, cooking) Example Sentences: She bought a beautiful big round mirror for the living room. I found my small square metal box in the attic. We need a rough large
American rug for the hallway. She has one ugly old red sofa that she wants to replace. He ordered a delicious hot Italian pizza for dinner. I saw the big new black car parked outside. They used a few beautiful antique silver spoons for the event. We stayed in a small modern French hotel near the beach. Practice Exercises about Order of Adjectives
Here are some practice exercises to help you learn the correct order of adjectives. Each exercise comes with an answer key to check your work. Answers Exercise 1: She bought a small Chinese wooden table. He wore several comfortable red cotton shirts to the picnic. They found an ancient round metal coin in the backyard. I saw five new blue plastic
cups on the shelf. She has three old rough wooden chairs in her garden. We visited a beautiful small French village last summer. He gave me several new brown leather jackets. The artist painted a large modern abstract painting for the exhibition. I am looking for a warm American woolen sweater for winter. They adopted three small cute young
puppies from the shelter. Exercise 2: b) beautiful red silk c) large modern Italian Adjectives in English follow a specific order when used together before a noun. Learning the correct order of adjectives in English follow a specific order when used together before a noun. Learning the correct order of adjectives in English follow a specific order when used together before a noun.
Native English speakers instinctively place adjectives in the right sequence, but English learners must study and practice this structure to master it. In this complete guide, you'll discover everything about the adjective order in English — including simple rules, the full sequence (opinion, size, age, shape, color, origin, material, purpose), clear
explanations for each type of adjective, examples with full adjective order, and practical memory tips. Understanding and using the correct adjective order will make your speaking and writing much more accurate and natural. What Is the Order of Adjective order will make your speaking and writing much more accurate and natural.
placed randomly. Instead, adjectives follow a fixed order based on the type of information they provide. Each adjective describes a different aspect of the moun, and they must appear in the correct order for the sentence to feel smooth and understandable. The general rule is: the more subjective or opinion-based adjectives come first, and the more
factual or objective ones come later. Here's a breakdown of the typical sequence adjectives follow: Example Sentence: Correct: She bought a wooden Italian blue round old small lovely jewelry box. As you can see, when adjectives are placed correctly, the description feels
smooth and logical to native ears. When the order is incorrect, it sounds confusing and unnatural. Order and Types of Adjectives in English Let's break down what each category really means — with easy examples and clear explanations. 1. Opinion Adjectives Opinion adjectives express personal feelings or judgments about a person, object, or
situation. They aren't based on facts, but on how we feel, which is why they usually come first in a sentence. Common examples include beautiful, terrible, boring, interesting, and fantastic performance. We had a horrible experience at the hotel. 2. Size Adjectives Size adjectives describe how big or small something is.
They help give a sense of scale and are placed right after opinion adjectives in a sentence. Common examples include big, small, tall, tiny, huge, and narrow. Examples: They live in a small apartment. He carried a huge suitcase. 3. Age Adjectives tell us how old something or someone is. These include words like young, old, ancient, new,
and modern. Age adjectives come after size when more than one adjective is used. Examples: We visited an ancient temple. She adopted a young puppy. 4. Shape Adjectives come after age adjectives when listing multiple.
Examples: I bought a round table. He gave her a heart-shaped necklace. 5. Color Adjectives are used to describe the color of a noun and include words like red, blue, green, black, and golden. They come after shape adjectives in adjective order. Examples: She wore a red dress. They painted the walls light blue. 6. Origin Adjectives
Origin adjectives tell us where something or someone comes from. These include French, Italian, American, Chinese, and ancient Roman. Origin comes after color when multiple adjectives Material Adjectives Material Adjectives Material Adjectives are used. Examples: He loves Italian food. They visited an ancient Roman. Origin comes after color when multiple adjectives Material Adjective
like wooden, metal, plastic, cotton, and glass. These adjectives appear after origin in the correct order. Examples: She sat on a wooden chair. He wore a cotton shirt. 8. Purpose Adjectives explain what something is used for. These often come from nouns and include words like sleeping (as in sleeping bag), running (shoes), or
cooking (pan). They appear last in adjective order. Examples: We packed a sleeping bag. He bought a running jacket. Example Sentences where adjectives follow the correct order: She wore a beautiful small old round red Spanish leather handbag. (Opinion \rightarrow Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Shape \rightarrow Color \rightarrow Origin \rightarrow Material)
They bought a large new rectangular wooden dining table. (Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Color \rightarrow Origin) She bought a gorgeous big old Italian wooden dining table. (Opinion \rightarrow Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Origin) She bought a gorgeous big old Italian wooden dining table. (Opinion \rightarrow Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Origin) She bought a gorgeous big old Italian wooden dining table.
blue sweater. (Opinion \rightarrow Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Color) They moved into a spacious modern Japanese apartment. (Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Origin) We need a small round metal serving tray for the party. (Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Color) They moved into a spacious modern Japanese apartment. (Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Origin) We need a small round metal serving tray for the party. (Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Origin) We need a small round metal serving tray for the party.
correct order of adjectives might seem difficult at first, but there's a simple memory trick that can make it much easier. The most popular method is using the acronym OSASCOMP, where each letter stands for a different type of adjective: Opinion, Size, Age, Shape, Color, Origin, Material, and Purpose. Following this pattern helps you place adjectives
in the right order naturally when describing a noun. O-S-A-S-C-O-M-POpinion \rightarrow Size \rightarrow Age \rightarrow Shape \rightarrow Color \rightarrow Origin \rightarrow Material \rightarrow Purpose Example: A beautiful (Opinion) small (Size) new (Age) round (Shape) white (Color) French (Origin) ceramic (Material) coffee (Purpose) cup. You don't need to memorize it perfectly at first. The more you read,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                leather handbag, a) beautiful small brownb) brown small beautifulc) leather small beautiful We remember that adjectives are used to describe things, people, and
listen, and practice English, the more natural this structure will feel. Quiz: Order of Adjectives Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence. 1. She bought a
animals. Often, however, one alone may not be sufficient for detailed characterisation, and so it may become necessary to use several ones. Although it is certainly possible to put many adjectives in a row, it is relatively uncommon to hear more than two, sometimes even three. When they are placed before the noun, they usually appear in the
following order instead of being strung together arbitrarily:To begin, the number always comes first (Careful: The indefinite article 'a/an' expresses a number too.):a, several, five, twenty-two, some, etc. Then, the actual property follows: Opinion:lovely, funny, nice, interesting, awful, etc. Size: huge, little, small, big, tiny, etc. Age: old, young, ancient, new,
antique, aged, etc.Form:round, square, angular shaped, triangular, etc.Colour:blue, green, violet, red, orange, etc.Crigin:Spanish, British, Australian, South African, European, etc.Material:metal, gold, silver, wooden, etc.Type or purpose (in this position, a noun instead of an adjective may frequently appear as well):artificial, natural, etc.Examples:
bread knife, cleaning rag, etc. For details about this type, see the use of compound words. And finally, the noun is named: house, bike, plate, garden, tower, etc. Information: The mentioned order is basically the appropriate one. Despite that, it is not uncommon to deviate from it, either because an adjective fits better elsewhere or the speaker wants to
emphasize a specific characteristic. It is, therefore, necessary to internalise the order so that one can apply it correctly with gut feeling. Examples of accumulations of adjectives in sentences: "There is a very nice little café just around the corner." I was wearing a pair of comfortable brand-new white sports shoes." "We had dinner at an excellent stylish
Italian restaurant last night.""Remember, you've got more than three good reasons not to help that person."In some cases, it is possible to use the conjunction 'and' to connect adjectives. Such a connection regularly happens if ..... two or more adjectives of the same group (for example two colour indications) are mentioned: "She's bought a beautiful
red and blue dress.""This suit is tailored especially for the tall and slim man."... the adjective is named after the noun as an alternative to the placement before it. Then, the order is still the same as described above - but the last two adjectives are separated by 'and' as a
rule. Examples: "My friend's house is big and spacious." "The cave we visited was deep, dark and cold." Found anything to improve? Send us a message. Back to top Adjectives usually come before the noun. For example: "The
small dog jumped over the white fence." Small is an adjective that describes the noun dog, and white is an adjective that describes the noun fence. Adjective that describes the noun fence and things. They allow the listener or the reader to paint a mental picture of the person or object that is being described to them. Think about
some adjectives that you know. Some of the most common words are adjectives like good, bad, young, old, big, and small. Each of these adjectives serves a purpose by describing a different aspect of the noun's size. The good
news is that adjectives are relatively simple in English. In some languages, the adjective changes its form depending on whether the noun it modifies is singular/plural, or feminine/masculine. In English, we don't want to bore our listener or reader
with repetitive sentences. Imagine a description like this: "He is a tall man. He is a healthy man. He is a healthy man. He is a tall healthy young
man. "Using more than one adjective in a sentence makes our writing and speech richer and more concise. However, this is also where we have to be careful, because certain adjectives appear in a certain order. For example, in the description above, which would be more correct: tall healthy young man, or young healthy tall man? The answer is tall
healthy young man, but why?In English, we generally have a specific order of adjectives (although this can sometimes be flexible). Without this order, the sentence sounds unnatural, as in "young healthy tall man." To avoid unnatural-sounding sentences, we group adjectives by type, and we try to use them in this order:1. Opinion2. Measurements3.
Shape4. Condition 5. Age6. Color7. Pattern8. Origin9. Material 10. Purpose Obviously we never have a sentence that uses more than three adjectives to modify the same noun. We do need to know a little about each type, though, so that when we need to use two
or three adjectives in a row, we'll use them in the right order. First, let's look at each type of adjectives of opinion always come first before any other factual descriptions of the noun. There are two types of opinion adjectives. The first are
general opinion adjectives and can be used with any kind of noun, whether it is a person, place, or thing. Some of the most common general opinion adjectives are: goodbadlovelystrangebeautifulnice The second type are specific opinion adjectives are: goodbadlovelystrangebeautifulnice The second type are specific opinion adjectives are: goodbadlovelystrangebeautifulnice The second type are specific opinion adjectives are: goodbadlovelystrangebeautifulnice The second type are specific opinion adjectives.
animals: intelligent, friendly, unfriendly, unfriendly, hard-workingBuildings and furniture: comfortable, uncomfortable food: flavorful, tasty, deliciousIf you want to use a general opinion adjective and a specific opinion adjective in the same sentence, the general opinion adjective should come first. For example: "Isn't Maria a lovely, intelligent girl?" Lovely is a
general opinion adjective because it can be used with any noun. Therefore, it comes first. Intelligent is a specific opinion adjective because it can only be used with people and animals, so it comes first. Intelligent is a specific opinion adjective because it can be used with people and animals, so it comes first. Intelligent is a specific opinion adjective because it can only be used with people and animals, so it comes first. Intelligent is a specific opinion adjective because it can only be used with people and animals, so it comes first.
measurements are: big smalltinyhugeenormousshort talllongheavylight If we were to use more than one adjective of measurement in a sentence, we would normally use the adjective of shape usually describe objects. The most common are round, square,
rectangular, triangular, and oval. However, there are many words that describe the shapes of objects that we see all around us but that are used less frequently. For example: bentconcave convexflat pointy straighttwisted symmetricalAdjectives of condition tell us whether something is in a good or bad state. These are generally adjectives that
describe a temporary state of the person or thing in the sentence. Some common adjectives of physical condition, as are general states such as rich, powerful, shy, or clever."Adjectives of age can describe how old a person, place, or thing
is. We have to be careful with adjectives of age, because some are used for both people and things. For example: To describe people: young, youthful, elderlyTo describe things: new, antique To describe both: old, ancientAdjectives of color include the names of particular colors
themselves, such as yellow, red, and blue, but they can also be approximate colors, like reddish or yellowish, or even property of a color in one sentence, the property should come first, and the color after, immediately before the noun. For example: "A
translucent, yellow cup." "An opaque, blue curtain." Adjectives of pattern can describe patterns of materials or even of animals. Some of the most common pattern adjectives are checked, polka-dot, striped, plaid, and flowered. Adjectives of origin describe where something comes from. Usually, these are adjectives that refer to a specific country or
region. When we use a country adjective, like American, British, Indian, or Korean, note that we capitalized. Adjectives of material tell us what something is made of. For example: "A wooden table." "A plastic chair." "A steel railroad
track." Last in the order of adjectives are adjectives are adjectives of purpose. They tell us what something is for. For example: "A shopping cart." Now, let's put all of this information about the different types of adjectives together and see some examples of how it works when we modify a noun with more than one adjective: "Don't forget to bring
your new striped jacket."This sentence has two adjective of pattern. "Yesterday my sister gave me a blue wool sweater."This sentence also has two adjective of pattern. "Yesterday my sister gave me a blue wool sweater."This sentence has two adjective of pattern. "I bought an enormous rectangular Turkish rug on my
vacation." This sentence includes three adjective types: Enormous is an adjective of measurement; rectangular is an adjective of shape; and Turkish is an adjective of origin (specifically of a country, so it's also capitalized). We use and to link two adjectives of the same type that describe separate parts of one object. For example: "The child was
playing with a blue and red plastic robot. Blue and red are two adjectives of color, joined by and. They are followed by the adjective is connected to the previous ones with the word and. For example: "The house is big, white, and
wooden."Last but not least, we need to mention commas. You have probably noticed that in some of our example sentences the adjectives are separated by commas, and in others they're not. In general, we do use commas between adjectives are separated by commas, and in others they're not. In general, we do use commas between adjectives that describe the noun independently from one another. For example: "I bought a heavy, long table." Each of
the above adjectives separately describes the noun table; these are called coordinate adjectives, and they are each separated by a comma. One way that we can check if adjectives are coordinate is by trying to switch around the order and see if the sentence still makes sense. For example: "I bought a long, heavy table." The sentence still sounds
correct, so we know that we are looking at coordinate adjectives and that we need to use a comma. Another way that we can check is by inserting the word and where the comma would go: "I bought a heavy and long table." Again, the sentence still sounds correct, so we know we are dealing with coordinate adjectives. When adjectives build on each
 other to create a complete description, we don't separate them with commas. These are called cumulative adjectives, because their describing wooden table (not just table alone), and so this sentence would sound strange if rearranged, like this: "I bought a black wooden table (not just table alone), and so this sentence would sound strange if rearranged, like this: "I bought a black wooden table (not just table alone), and so this sentence would sound strange if rearranged, like this: "I bought a
wooden black table."We can also try inserting and, with the same result: "I bought a black and wooden table."The sentence doesn't sound right either rearranged or using the and test, so we know that we are dealing with cumulative adjectives, and we should not separate them with commas. Finally, we should remember that like with most grammar
rules, the order of adjectives is not fixed, and there are exceptions. We can do our best to keep adjectives in their natural order, but we may encounter variations. Get all volumes of The Farlex Grammar Book in paperback or eBook. Share Tweet When more than one adjective comes before a noun, the adjectives are normally in a particular order (
order of adjectives). Adjectives which describe opinions or attitudes (e.g. amazing to examples 1 opinions or attitudes (e.g. red): She was wearing an amazing red coat. Not: ... red amazing coat If we don't want to emphasise any one of the adjectives, the most usual sequence of adjectives is: order relating to examples 1 opinion
unusual, lovely, beautiful 2 size big, small, tall 3 physical quality thin, rough, untidy 4 shape round, square, rectangular 5 age young, old, youthful 6 colour blue, red, pink 7 origin Dutch, Japanese, Turkish 8 material metal, wood, plastic 9 type general-purpose, four-sided, U-shaped 10 purpose cleaning, hammering, cooking
a strange (1), green (6), metallic (8) material. It's a long (4), narrow (8), plastic (10) brush. Panettone is a round (4), Italian (7), bread-like (9) Christmas cake. Here are some invented examples of longer adjective phrases, A noun phrase which included all these types would be extremely rare.
                                                                  What an amazing (1), little (2), old (5), Chinese (7) cup and saucer! When more than one adjective occurs after a verb such as be (a linking verb), the second last adjective by and: Home was always a warm, welcoming place. Now it is sad,
(3), young (5), black-haired (6), Scottish (7) woman.
dark and cold. And is less common when more than one adjective comes before the noun (e.g. a warm, welcoming place). However, we can use and when there are two or more adjectives of the same type, or when the adjectives refer to different parts of the same type, or when the adjectives homes itemaps common
errors porder of adjectives The order of adjectives in English, we need to understand the difference between cumulative returned adjectives in English, we need to understand the difference between cumulative returned adjectives in English, we need to understand the difference between cumulative returned adjectives in English, we need to understand the difference between cumulative returned adjectives in English, we need to understand the difference between cumulative returned adjectives in English is determiner, quantity, opinion, size, physical quality, shape, age, color/colour, origin, material, type, and purpose.
adjectives and coordinate adjectives. The order of adjectives cumulative adjectives cumulative adjectives must appear to the noun to create a more specific meaning. Cumulative adjectives must appear
in a specific order, and they cannot be separated by commas or the word "and." Look at these examples: a handmade mixing bowl those unsold goalkeeper gloves my first yellow taxi cab As the order of these adjectives cannot be separated by commas or the word "and." Let's test this
idea. a mixing handmade bowl (Changing the order stops the adjectives cumulating their meaning as they get nearer to "gloves." That's why adding "and" sounds wrong.) my
first, yellow, taxi cab (Using a "comma" interrupts the adjectives cumulating their meaning as they get nearer to "cab." That's why adding commas is wrong. However, these words still sound okay. Therefore, to improve this test, instead of inserting a comma, insert "and." If your phrase sounds awful, the commas are wrong.) Remember that
cumulative adjectives cumulate as they get nearer the noun. They demand a certain order, and they won't tolerate any interruptions with commas or conjunctions (e.g., "and," "or," "but"). Notice that this page started with the title "Order of Adjectives." but now we have the title "The Order of Cumulative Adjectives." We've refined the title because
only cumulative adjectives demand this order: PlacementType of AdjectiveExamples 1Article, Demonstrative Determiner, orPossessive Determiner, orPo
cluttered 6Shapesquare, round, long 7Ageyoung, middle-aged, old 8Colour/Colorred, blue, purple 9Origin or ReligionFrench, Buddhist 10Material metal, leather, wooden 11Type L-shaped, two-sided, all-purpose, orAttributive Nounmixing, drinking, cookingservice, football, head Coordinate Adjectives. Coordinate adjectives are also multiple
adjectives that modify the same noun, but, with coordinate adjectives, their order is far less important because they can be used individually with the noun. In other words, they do not cumulate their meaning with other adjectives. Also, coordinate adjectives should be separated with commas or "and" to make it clear they're not cumulative adjectives.
white, lumpy spots white and lumpy spots lumpy, white spots lumpy and white spots lumpy are sp
Often, they will come from the same category. When this happens, it is normal to use "and" between them. For example: sweet, black and yellow, sticky toffees Be careful with the precedence list. Sometimes, an adjective and a noun are inseparable because they belong together as a single semantic unit (i.e., a recognized thing). For example: my
wooden Spanish guitar (As a "Spanish guitar" is a recognized thing, "Spanish" doesn't take its place according to the precedence list. This could be a bass guitar
made in Spain.) Here are some more examples: He was a deluded fat cat in City of London. The rock ripped his expensive wet suit. The gamble was a long shot. (It doesn't matter what adjectives accompany these terms (called compound nouns), the shaded words must always be together. This is why purpose is the last category in the order of
adjectives. When you add an adjective like "mixing" to "bowl," you create a recognized thing, "mixing bowl.") Rather bizarrely, native English speakers can order their adjectives are meant to follow an established order). So, if you're a native English speaker,
you should let your instinct guide you. Trust me. You know this list well enough, even if you don't know you do. The list of precedence given on this page is not universally agreed, but all versions are pretty similar. More specifically, you might find other references that give physical quality, shape, and age in a different order. What are adjectives?
Commas in a list of adjectives Was something wrong with this page? Use #qm to find us quicker. Create a QR code for this, or any, page. XYouTubeFacebookmailing listgrammar forum
```