

FUNCTIONS OF ADJECTIVES

Function of Adjectives

Adjectives can:

Describe **feelings or qualities**:

Examples

- He is a *lonely* man
- They are *honest* people

Give **nationality or origin**:

Examples

- Pierre is *French*
- This clock is *German*
- Our house is *Victorian*

Tell more about a thing's **characteristics**:

Examples

- A *wooden* table.
- The knife is *sharp*.

Tell us about **age**:

Examples

- He's *young* man
- My coat is very *old*

Tell us about **size and measurement**:

Examples

- This is a very *long* film.
- John *tall* man.

Tell us about **color**:

Examples

- Paul wore a *red* shirt.
- The sunset was *crimson* and *gold*.

Tell us about **material/what something is made of**:

Examples

- It was a *wooden* table
- She wore a *cotton* dress

Tell us about **shape**:

Examples

- A *rectangular* box
- A *square* envelope

Express a **judgment or a value**:

Examples

- A *fantastic* film
- Grammar is *boring*.

ADVERBS - FUNCTION

Adverbs modify, or tell us more about other words, usually verbs:

Examples

- The bus moved *slowly*.
- The bears ate *greedily*.

Sometimes they tell us more about adjectives:

Examples

- You look *absolutely* fabulous!

They can also modify other adverbs:

Examples

- She played the violin *extremely* well.
- You're speaking *too* quietly.

DETERMINERS

FUNCTION AND CLASSES OF DETERMINERS

Function

Determiners are words placed in front of a noun to make it clear what the noun refers to.

The word '*people*' by itself is a general reference to some group of human beings. If someone says '*these people*', we know which group they are talking about, and if they say '*a lot of people*' we know how big the group is.

'*These*' and '*a lot of*' are determiners in these sentences.

Classes of Determiners

There are several classes of determiners:

Definite and Indefinite articles

the, a, an

Demonstratives

this, that, these, those

Possessives

my, your, his, her, its, our, their

Quantifiers

a few, a little, much, many, a lot of, most, some, any, enough, etc.

Numbers

one, ten, thirty, etc.

Distributives

all, both, half, either, neither, each, every

Difference words

other, another

Question words

Which, what, whose

Defining words

which, whose

The following words are pre-determiners. They go before determiners, such as articles: *such and what, half, rather, quite*

The Gerund and the Present Participle: 'ING' Form

The '-ing' form of the verb may be a **present participle** or a **gerund**.

The form is identical, the difference is in the function, or the job the word does in the sentence.

The present participle:

This is most commonly used:

- as part of the continuous form of a verb,
*he is **painting**; she has been **waiting***
- after verbs of movement/position in the pattern:
verb + present participle,
*She sat **looking** at the sea*
- after verbs of perception in the pattern:
verb + object + present participle,
*We saw him **swimming***
- as an adjective, e.g. **amazing, worrying, exciting, boring**

The gerund:

This always has the same function as a noun (although it looks like a verb), so it can be used:

- as the subject of the sentence:
***Eating** people is wrong.*
- after prepositions:
*Can you sneeze without **opening** your mouth?*
*She is good at **painting***
- after certain verbs,
e.g. **like, hate, admit, imagine**
- in compound nouns,
e.g. a **driving** lesson, a **swimming** pool,
bird-watching, train-spotting

Summary of Verb Tenses in English

SUMMARY OF VERB TENSES

Present tenses

Simple present: *She **wants** a drink.*

Present continuous: *They **are walking** home.*

Past tenses

Simple past: *Peter **lived** in China in 1965.*

Past continuous: *I **was reading** when she arrived.*

Perfect tenses

Present Perfect: *I **have lived** here since 1987.*

Present perfect continuous: *I **have been living** here for years.*

Past perfect: *We **had been** to see her several times before she visited us.*

Past perfect continuous: *He **had been watching** her for some time when she turned and smiled.*

Future perfect: *We **will have arrived** in the States by the time you get this letter.*

Future perfect continuous: *By the end of your course, you **will have been studying** for five years.*

Future tenses

Simple future: *They **will go** to Italy next week.*

Future continuous: *I **will be travelling** by train.*

Conditional tenses

Present conditional: *If he **had** the money he **would go***

Present continuous conditional: *He **would be getting up** now if he **was** in Australia.*

Perfect conditional: *She **would have visited** me if she **had had** time.*

Perfect continuous conditional: *I **would have been playing** tennis if I **hadn't broken** my arm.*

Nouns name people, places, and things. Every noun can further be classified as common or proper. A *common* noun names *general* items.

Go into the kitchen. What do you see? Refrigerator, magnet, stove, window, coffee maker, wallpaper, spatula, sink, plate—all of these *things* are common nouns.

Leave the house. Where can you go? Mall, restaurant, school, post office, backyard, beach, pet store, supermarket, gas station—all of these *places* are common nouns.

Go to the mall. Who do you see? Teenager, grandmother, salesclerk, police officer, toddler, manager, window dresser, janitor, shoplifter—all of these *people* are common nouns.

The important thing to remember is that common nouns are *general* names. Thus, they are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence or are part of a title. Proper nouns, those that name *specific* things, do require capitalization.

Common Noun

coffee shop
waiter
jeans
sandwich
chair
arena
country
fire fighter

Proper Noun

Starbucks
Simon
Levi's
Big Mac
Roll-O-Rocker
Amway Arena
Australia
Captain Richard Orsini

Here are some sample sentences:

Although there are five other chairs in the living room, everyone in Jim's family fights to sit in the puffy new Roll-O-Rocker.

Chairs = **common noun**; Roll-O-Rocker = **proper noun**.

Harriet threw the stale cucumber sandwich in the trash can and fantasized about a Big Mac dripping with special sauce.

Sandwich = **common noun**; Big Mac = **proper noun**.

Because we like an attentive waiter, we always ask for Simon when we eat at Mama Rizzoni's Pizzeria.

Waiter = **common noun**; Simon = **proper noun**.