

18.1 Adjectives (Modification, Articles) • Practice 1

The Process of Modification An adjective is a word used to describe a noun or pronoun, or to give a noun or pronoun a more specific meaning. Adjectives answer the questions *What kind? Which one? How many? or How much?* about the nouns or pronouns they modify.

ADJECTIVE QUESTIONS		
What Kind?	rare coin	lucky one
Which One?	first try	that dog
How Many?	seven days	few people
How Much?	adequate time	no money

Articles The definite article, *the*, indicates that the noun it modifies refers to a specific person, place, or thing. The indefinite articles, *a* and *an*, indicate that the nouns they modify may refer to any one of a class of people, place, or things. The following chart summarizes the rules for choosing between *a* and *an*.

Consonant Sounds	Vowel Sounds
a book	an incident
a horn (h sound)	an honorable decision (no h sound)
a one-day sale (w sound)	an open door (o sound)
a unicycle (y sound)	an umbrella (u sound)

Exercise 1 Identifying Adjectives. Underline the two adjectives in each sentence. Do not count *a*, *an*, and *the*.

EXAMPLE: The final play in the game was spectacular.

- Dad divided the apple pie among the eager guests.
- The runner was proud of setting a new record.
- The passengers remained calm in spite of the turbulent weather.
- The giant spacecraft orbited Earth for ten days.
- Everything always looks fresher and greener after a rainfall.
- No one in the class had the correct answer to the last question.
- Cellars of old houses near the river flood during heavy rains.
- The first speaker raised an interesting point.
- At the last debate, Collins seemed the stronger candidate.
- The new students were eager to volunteer.

Exercise 2 Using Articles in Sentences. Fill in each blank with the correct article called for in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: a Halloween costume (indefinite)

- _____ exotic flower (indefinite)
- _____ plaid coat (definite)
- _____ one-horse town (indefinite)
- _____ unanimous vote (indefinite)
- _____ honorary degree (indefinite)
- _____ final episode (definite)
- _____ unique opportunity (indefinite)
- _____ new book (definite)
- _____ travel agent (definite)
- _____ unusual bird (indefinite)

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18.1 Adjectives (Modification, Articles) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Recognizing Words Modified by Adjectives. Circle the word or words modified by each underlined adjective.

EXAMPLE: In the green meadow stood an ugly, old ram.

- A strange creature crept out of the murky water.
- A steady diet of any food will not provide sufficient nutrients.
- The winner, weary but happy, gave us a broad grin.
- The big game was played on a raw, cold day.
- A long drive lined with stately, old oaks led to an old mansion.
- Many people watched as a new record was set.
- You were generous to give me the larger piece.
- Alice wasted the first wish because she had not given the matter enough thought.
- Dana tried a third time, and then she was successful.
- The pale and wintry sun gave little warmth.
- Over short distances, cheetahs are the fastest land animals.
- The yellowish fur of a leopard has black spots.
- Eagles and hawks are carnivorous birds with long, sharp claws.
- A few eagles are so big that they can catch small deer.
- Young ducks and geese have short, thick feathers called down.

Exercise 2 Using Definite and Indefinite Articles. Write the article needed to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: I had an apple for dessert. (indefinite)

- Joey studied hard for _____ exam. (definite)
- Alison is _____ one-woman band. (indefinite)
- That book has _____ unusual title. (indefinite)
- Did you find _____ car keys? (definite)
- Grandma always keeps _____ cookie jar full. (definite)
- June will give us _____ honest answer. (indefinite)
- Dad fixed us _____ omelet for lunch. (indefinite)
- _____ agent showed us several houses. (definite)
- We stayed in _____ hotel just outside town. (indefinite)
- Liz had brought _____ umbrella. (indefinite)
- Deer's antlers fall off in _____ winter. (definite)
- The bird looked for _____ good place for her nest. (indefinite)
- Jake picked up _____ apple that had fallen to the ground. (indefinite)
- _____ largest bird is the ostrich. (definite)
- We saw _____ hummingbird at our new feeder. (indefinite)

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18.1 Adjectives (Nouns Used as Adjectives, Proper and Compound Adjectives) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Identifying Nouns Used as Adjectives. Underline the noun or nouns that are used as adjectives in each sentence. Make sure each one modifies another noun.

EXAMPLE: Good family members should be careful shoppers.

- When you go to the grocery store, do you look for a breakfast cereal, fruit drink, or soap powder with a famous name? (2) If so, you probably pay more than you would if you bought another household product.
- Name brands—products with well-known names—are sold across the country. (4) As a result, name brands are usually more costly than regional products, which are sold in a limited area.
- Producers of national brands know the value of package design and spend money to give products shelf appeal.

Exercise 2 Recognizing Proper and Compound Adjectives. Underline the proper and compound adjectives in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: German shepherds make high-spirited pets.

- From the days of the Egyptian and Mesopotamian empires, people have valued dogs because many of their senses are much stronger than ours. (2) A dog's sense of smell is keen, as can be seen in the fugitive-hunting activities of the bloodhound. (3) A dog's sense of hearing is acute, especially for high-pitched sounds. (4) Though dogs are nearsighted and colorblind, their eyes can detect the slightest movement.
- In far-off days, dogs first served people as hunters. (6) Mesopotamian records from 3000 B.C. describe greyhound-like dogs. (7) Labrador retrievers, Irish setters, and Russian wolfhounds are a few descendants of early hunters. (8) Work dogs also have a long-lived history. (9) German shepherds, English collies, and Siberian huskies belong to the hard-working group. (10) Today, most breeds, such as the Yorkshire terrier, the Mexican chihuahua, and the French poodle, are kept mainly for companionship.

Writing Application Writing Sentences with Adjectives. Write each sentence, adding one or more adjectives. Include at least one noun used as an adjective, one proper adjective, and one compound adjective.

EXAMPLE: The team won a game.

The basketball team won a tournament game.

- We moved the table out under the tree.

- The house on our street has a fence around it.

- We had food for dinner.

- The child played with the ball.

- The driver couldn't read the sign.

18.1 Pronouns Used as Adjectives • Practice 1

Possessive Pronouns or Adjectives A pronoun is used as an adjective if it modifies a noun. A personal pronoun used as a possessive adjective answers the question *Which one?* about a noun that follows it.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES						
my	your	his	her	its	our	their

Demonstrative, Interrogative, and Indefinite Adjectives A demonstrative, interrogative, or indefinite pronoun used as an adjective answers the question *Which one? How many? or How much?* about the noun that follows it.

Demonstrative Adjectives	Interrogative Adjectives
this, that, these, those	what, which, whose

INDEFINITE ADJECTIVES			
Singular	Plural	Singular or Plural	
another	both	all	other
each	few	any	some
either	many	more	
neither	several	most	

Exercise 1 Recognizing Possessive Adjectives. Underline the possessive adjective in each sentence and circle the noun it modifies.

EXAMPLE: We were late because our car broke down.

- Is your typewriter broken?
- The cat cleaned its paws.
- The jurors have taken their seats.
- The mayor is in her office.
- Who broke my tennis racquet?
- We take our vacation in August.
- Several guests brought their records.
- I left my notes in school.
- The boat came off its moorings.
- Did Dad tell you his surprise?

Exercise 2 Adding Other Pronouns Used as Adjectives. Fill in each blank with the kind of pronoun given in parentheses.

EXAMPLE: Whose notebook is this? (interrogative)

- _____ tomatoes are bigger than last year's. (demonstrative)
- _____ prominent citizens oppose the bill. (indefinite)
- _____ student completed a questionnaire. (indefinite)
- _____ career are you thinking of? (interrogative)
- _____ class are you in for math? (interrogative)