Adjectives

Adjectives are describing words - they tell you more about nouns.

Nouns are 'naming' words - they are used to name a person, place or thing.

Adjectives tell you more about the noun. Using adjectives makes your sentences more interesting. For example: The **pretty** <u>girls</u> laughed.

> In this sentence:
>
> > '<u>girls</u>' is the noun (it says who's laughing).
>
> > '**pretty**' is the adjective (it says more about the noun).

Here are two more sentences with <u>nouns</u> and **adjectives**:

> The **fat** <u>captain</u> ate dinner.
>
> **Old** <u>Hani</u> and I drove up the **big** <u>hill</u>.

Remember that adjectives tell you about the noun, they describe the noun. Don't confuse adjectives with adverbs. Adverbs describe the verb, they tell you more about an action. For example, 'he laughed **loudly**'.

Remember that adjectives usually come before the noun.

You can use more than one adjective if you need to.

> eg Joe loved driving his parents' **expensive**, **new** car home along the **beautiful**, **long**, **winding** coast road.

Adjectives can also come after the verb 'to be'.

> eg <u>Sam</u> is **blonde** and **gorgeous**.

Increase the range of adjectives you use to make your writing more interesting. For example: '**nice**' can be replaced by **friendly**, **tasty**, **sunny**, **interesting**, **pretty**, **comfortable** etc, depending on what you are describing.

What are adverbs?

Adverbs are words that **tell us more about verbs** - they **add** information to the verb.

(A verb is a 'doing' word or a 'being' word: eg walk, feel.)

Using adverbs makes your sentences **more interesting**. Any verb you use can have an **adverb** added:

> The girl smiled **nervously**.
> The boy grinned **sheepishly**.
> The light shone **feebly**.

We use adverbs:

- To say **how** something happens:
  The family walk (how?) **quickly**.
- To say **where** or **when** something happens:
  I met him (when?) **yesterday**.
- To say **how often** something happens:
  She gets the bus (how often?) **daily**.
- To make the meaning of an adjective, adverb or verb **stronger** or **weaker**:
  Dave eats (degree?) **more slowly** than his wife.

Adverbs are **often created from adjectives** (describing words that tell you more about nouns) by adding **-ly** to the end of the adjective: For example:

slow becomes **slowly**: Joe is a **slow** person. He walks **slowly**.

Certain words change when they become adverbs. If an adjective ends in a 'y' you need to change the 'y' to an 'i' before adding '-ly'. For example:

happy becomes **happily**
heavy becomes **heavily**

What is a noun?

A **noun** is a person, a place, a thing, an idea or a concept. For example:

- Person: **the postman, a teacher, Tom, a neighbour**.
- Place: **a village, England, Edinburgh, a street, a park**.
- Thing: **a box, a banana, a computer**.
- Idea or concept: **beauty**, **information, importance**.

The **subject** of a sentence is always a noun:

> The **park** is near my house. ('Park' goes with the verb 'is'.)

The **object** of the sentence is also a noun:

> I like **chocolate**. ('Chocolate' is not doing the liking, it is liked.)

Nouns can be **singular** (there is one thing):

> My **desk** is near the window.

Or they can be **plural** (there is more than one thing):

> There are not enough **desks** in the office.

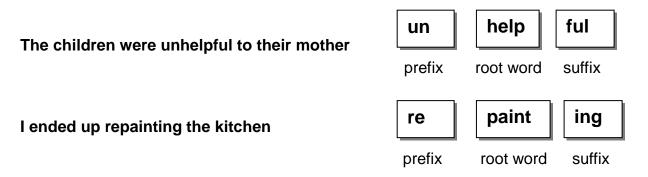Plurals usually end in 's' but are sometimes irregular:

> **man - men**

> **person - people**

> **child - children**

Skillswise

Prefixes and suffixes

Some words (**root** words) can have words or parts of words added to the beginning or end that change their meaning.

If you add parts of words to the beginning of a word, it is called a **prefix**.
If you add parts of words to the end of a word, it is called a **suffix**.

The children were unhelpful to their mother

un	**help**	**ful**
prefix	root word	suffix

I ended up repainting the kitchen

re	**paint**	**ing**
prefix	root word	suffix

Knowing about these parts of words is useful for spelling because they help you break down longer words into smaller parts and they also give you clues about their meanings.

Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning
un-	means **not** or the opposite of the rest of the word: eg **un**eaten means **not eaten**
dis-	also means **not**: eg **dis**agreed means **not agreed**
re-	means **again**: eg **re**done means **done again**
pre-	means **before** e.g. **pre**date means **to come before**

Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning
-s, -es	means **more than one** (plural): eg one book but many book**s**.
-ing or **-ed**	shows when something happened - in the present (**ing**) or past (**ed**) tense: eg I am work**ing** there now or I work**ed** there last week
-er, -est	means **more** or the most of something: eg that drink was cold**er** (more cold) or that was the cold**est** drink (the most cold)
-ful or **-less**	shows there is *a **lot of** something (hope**ful** - a lot of hope) or none of something (hope**less** - no hope)

What are pronouns?

A **noun** is a person, place or thing (eg Brian, the car, the dog, Sunita, London).

A **pronoun** is a word that can be used in place of a noun.

A **personal pronoun** is used in place of a noun that is a person or a thing.

Personal pronouns for people =	I, you, he, she, we, they me, you, him, her, us, them
Personal pronouns for things =	it, they, them

Why use a personal pronoun?

- They are useful because you don't have to repeat words.
- They can be used to talk about something or someone that you have already talked about.

For example: Elizabeth put the coat on because Elizabeth was cold.

This would be better written as: Elizabeth put the coat on because **she** was cold.

The word **she** is a personal pronoun and means 'Elizabeth' in this sentence.

This makes the sentence shorter and more interesting because you don't have to repeat 'Elizabeth'.

There are **two types** of personal pronouns:

- Subject pronouns are the 'who' or 'what' the sentence is about:
  I, you, he, she, it, we, they are all subject pronouns
- Object pronouns are the 'who' or what' acted upon:
  me, you, him, her, it, us, them are all object pronouns

For example: Elizabeth put the coat on.

In this sentence 'Elizabeth' is the subject and 'the coat' is the object.

Elizabeth is doing the action (putting on) and the coat is the thing that is 'done to' (it is the thing that she puts on).

If you wanted to repeat this information later you could say: **She** put **it** on.

What are verbs?

Verbs tell us what people (or things) are doing or being. They can change according to the time being spoken about: past, present or future:

For example:

Sam **finished** his homework in the library.

In this sentence 'finished' is the verb (it says what Sam did with his homework in the past).

All sentences need a verb. Here are some examples:

Jenny **reads** the Metro on the train every morning.

That bicycle **belongs** to me.

Two verbs are sometimes put together, especially with verbs like **can**, **must**, **should**.

I **can see** the sea from my house.

You really **must see** the new Bond film.

We can also use more than one word to form a tense:

We **have been driving** for hours.

Word types

Words belong to different groups or **word types**. The main word types are:

nouns, **verbs**, **adjectives**, **adverbs**, **pronouns** and **connectives**.

Each type of word has a different role in a sentence. Look at the following sentence:

The young child quickly followed his parents into

the room and then he sat down.

The **nouns** are **child**, **parents**, **room**.

Nouns are names for things. **Child** is the subject of the sentence and tells us who carried out the action. **Parents** are the object and tell us who the child followed.

The **verbs** are **followed** and **sat**.

Verbs are doing words. **Followed** and **sat** tell us what the child did. They can also be used for actions of the mind - eg think, believe, remember.

The **adjective** is **young**.

Adjectives describe nouns. **Young** tell us something about the child.

The **adverbs** are **quickly** and **then**.

Adverbs describe the way the verb is carried out. **Quickly** tells us how the child followed. **Then** tells us when he sat down. Adverbs can tell us how, when, how much something is done.

The **pronouns** are **his** and **he**.

Pronouns are used to avoid repeating a noun. **His** and **he** are an alternative to repeating 'the child's' and 'the child'. Other pronouns include: it, she, her, they, them, we, us, that, this.

The **connective** is **and**.

Connectives are used to join two ideas. Here **and** tells us that the boy did another thing. Other connectives include: but, or, so, although, therefore.

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