**Adjectives**

### What are adjectives?

An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun by describing, identifying, or quantifying words. An adjective often precedes the noun or the pronoun which it modifies.

'Big', 'boring', 'purple', 'quick' and 'obvious' are all adjectives

### Categories of adjectives

The following are the **fifteen major categories of meaning that are expressed with English adjectives.** A few exemples are listed for each category, but there are several more possibilities.

#### ****COLOR:****

blue, red, green, brown, yellow, black, white, purple, pink, etc...

#### ****SIZE:****

big, huge, immense, enormous, mammoth, massive, vast, large, wide, spacious, small, little, tiny, high, long, tall, low , short, same as, gigantic, teeny (weeny), petite, scrawny, etc...

#### ****SHAPE:****

round (a ball), circle (a door knob), triangular, rectangular (a flag), square (a cake), oval (an egg), broad, curved, flat, etc...

#### ****FEELINGS:****

happy, glad, beatific, blissful, cheerful, chirpy, content, pleased, satisfied, delighted, ecstatic , exalted, elated, sad, bereft, blue, broken, broken-hearted, broody, bruised, broody, careworn, deflated, dark, demoralised, depressed, desolate, despondent, disaffected, disappointed, disconsolate, discouraged, dismal, disillusioned, disheartened, dismayed, displeased, dissatisfied, distressed, distraught, doleful, down, downcast,downhearted, forlorn, tender, angry, excited, envious, embarassed, frightened, etc...

#### ****QUALITIES AND APPEARANCE:****

good,excellent, brilliant ,splendid, fantastic, magnificent, bad, terrible, awsome, awful, nice, beautiful, pretty,gorgeous, cute, glamorous,  
elegant, good-looking, handsome, ugly, unsightly, right, wrong, funny, amusing, entertaining, light, heavy, fat, stout, thin, slim, clean, dirty, filthy, straight, noisy, quiet, still, tranquil, calm, powerful, nutritious, adorable, adventurous, aggressive, alert, attractive, bloody, blushing, colorful, exciting, graceful, grotesque, drab, dull, homely, plain, precious, sparkling, fragile, frail, weak, strong, doubtful, bewildred, confused, puzzled, cautious, careful, concerned, innocent, guilty, crazy, silly, stupid, foolish, clumsy, intelligent, clever, cunning, shy, timid, rich, poor, wild, defiant, courageous, brave, helpful, helpless, unhelpful, etc...

#### ****CONDITION:****

important, principal, paramount, famous, notorious, fictitious, real, true, false, imaginary, alive, dead, odd, weird, unsusual, strange, outsanding, impossible, improbable,easy, difficult, closed, open, etc...

#### ****QUANTITY:****

one, two, three, ... first, second, third, ... abundant, empty,heavy, light, numerous, substantial, significant, insignificant etc...

#### ****WEATHER AND TEMPERATURE:****

cold, warm, hot, cool, rainy, windy snowy,foggy, sunny, cloudy, stormy, frozen, etc...

#### ****TIME:****

late, early, punctual, behindhand, delayed, ill-timed, premature, tardy, unearthly, modern, traditional, old-fashioned, young, old, new, slow, swift,quick, rapid, brief, short, long, etc...

#### ****NATIONALITY AND ORIGIN:****

American, Mexican, Moroccan,, African, Martian, etc...

#### ****MATERIAL:****

wooden, woolen, cottony, fibrous, metallic, bronze, etc...

#### ****AGE:****

old, ancient, aged, senile, elderly, ageless, oldish, overage, young, juvenile, adolescent, teenage, underage, youthful, etc...

#### ****PURPOSE:****

(These adjectives usually end in /ing/) sleeping bag, frying pan, swinging door, time-saving gadget, driving licence, etc...

#### ****Taste/Touch:****

bitter, delicious, fresh, juicy, ripe, rotten, salty, sour, spicy, stale, sticky, sweet, tart, tasteless, tasty, thirsty, fluttering, fuzzy,greasy, grubby, hard, hot, icy, loose, melted, plastic, prickly, rough, scattered, shaggy, shaky, sharp, shivering, silky, slimy, slippery, smooth, soft, solid, steady, sticky, tight, uneven, weak, wet, wooden, yummy, boiling, etc...

#### SOUND:

cooing, deafening, faint, harsh, high-pitched, hissing, hushed, husky, loud, melodic, moaning, mute, noisy, purring, quiet, raspy, resonant, screeching, shrill, silent, soft, squealing, thundering, voiceless, whispering, etc..

## Base and Strong Adjectives

#### Base adjectives

Base adjectives are normal adjectives that don't have the idea of 'very'

#### Strong adjectives

Strong adjectives, however, are extreme adjectives that have the idea of 'very'

#### Examples

* gorgeous = very beautiful
* huge = very big

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| --- | --- |
| **Base Adjectives** | **Strong Adjectives** |
| beautiful | gorgeous |
| ugly | awful |
| dirty | Filthy |
| good | superb, great, fantastic |
| bad | terrible |
| happy | thrilled |
| angry | furious |
| hungry | starving |
| tired | exhausted |
| funny | hilarious |
| big | huge, enormous |
| small | tiny |
| fat | obese |
| scared | terrified |
| cold | freezing |
| hot | boiling |

#### The use of very, absolutely and really with base and strong adjectives

Very, absolutely and really are used differently according whether the adjective is a base or a strong one:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **very** | **absolutely** | **really** |
| **Base adjectives** | true | false | true |
| **Strong adjectives** | false | true | true |

Examples:

* He was very happy; he was absolutely thrilled.
* He was really happy/ thrilled.