

Lesson  
1

# What Is an Adjective?

*Teaching*

An **adjective** is a word that modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun.

Adjectives	
What kind?	<u>slow</u> train, <u>slow</u> car
Which one or ones?	<u>last</u> chance, <u>second</u> door
How many or how much?	<u>three</u> rows, <u>several</u> passengers

The most commonly used adjectives are the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*. *A* and *an* are **indefinite articles**. They refer to someone or something in general. Use *a* before a word beginning with a consonant and *an* before a word beginning with a vowel.

A train ride can be an enjoyable experience.

*The* is the **definite article**. It points out one specific person, place, thing, or idea.

The train arrives in ten minutes.

Many adjectives are formed from common nouns, such as *windy* from *wind*.

**Proper adjectives** are formed from proper nouns. Proper adjectives are always capitalized.

Proper Nouns	Proper Adjectives
America	American
Canada	Canadian

## Identifying Adjectives

Underline all the adjectives in each sentence.

- The Fosters had a good time when they took a train to Chicago.
- The excited family climbed aboard the train.
- They found adjoining seats in an empty row.
- Brad waited for the other passengers to board.
- Finally, the train pulled out, and the dark train yard disappeared from view.
- First, they saw the crowded city they were leaving.
- But soon, the large city disappeared, and they could see the green countryside.
- Cindy wondered if there was a Pullman car on the train, where tired people could sleep.
- Mom and Dad got out the delicious lunches they had packed the night before.
- Then they looked at the American countryside as they sped over the miles.
- The long trip passed by quickly, and soon they were seeing the tall buildings of Chicago.
- That was one trip the family will never forget.

**Lesson 1**

# What Is an Adjective?

*More Practice*

## A. Identifying Adjectives and the Words They Modify

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Circle the proper adjectives. Ignore the articles.

1. Sculptures have been made from many materials.
2. The first sculptors used bone and ivory.
3. Greek sculptors carved huge blocks of marble into human forms.
4. The ancient Greeks also made bronze statues.
5. African masks have been sculpted from wood.
6. At Mount Rushmore, a magnificent sculpture of four faces of presidents has been cut into a craggy mountain.
7. One artist piled rocks in a lake and called the arrangement a modern masterpiece.
8. A French chef in New York chisels ice sculptures.
9. Machine parts are used to form mechanical sculptures.
10. Neon lights have been used to create artworks.

## B. Writing Adjectives

Write an adjective to complete each sentence.

**EXAMPLE** On the crowded train, it was hard to find a seat.

1. On a \_\_\_\_\_ trip, I like to take a good book to read.
2. At the beginning of a long train trip, I sat down in a \_\_\_\_\_ seat.
3. I looked out the window at \_\_\_\_\_ scenery.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ toddler sat in the row ahead of me.
5. Her \_\_\_\_\_ mother tried to keep the child interested in coloring.
6. But the \_\_\_\_\_ girl was more interested in me.
7. She leaned over the seats and stared at me with \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.
8. She asked me \_\_\_\_\_ questions.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ train ride was filled with conversation.
10. With a \_\_\_\_\_ companion, it didn't seem so long after all.

**Lesson  
1**

# What Is an Adjective?

*Application*

## A. Writing Adjectives in Sentences

Use the word at the beginning of each item as an adjective in a sentence.

**EXAMPLE** graceful *The graceful swans landed in a quiet lake.*

1. mysterious \_\_\_\_\_
2. beautiful \_\_\_\_\_
3. thirteen \_\_\_\_\_
4. many \_\_\_\_\_
5. African \_\_\_\_\_
6. snowy \_\_\_\_\_
7. fast \_\_\_\_\_
8. breakable \_\_\_\_\_
9. frightening \_\_\_\_\_
10. Asian \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Writing a Paragraph Using Adjectives

Imagine that you are taking a long, cross-country train ride. What do you see when you look out the window? How could you describe your fellow passengers? Write a short paragraph about your trip. Use at least five adjectives in your description. Underline the adjectives in your paragraph.

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