

Adjectives, adverbs, adverbials



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Adjectives 1.

Two major functions of adjectives



Attributive

- *lonely* people
- a *hot* day
- this *excellent* play

- Pre-head Modifiers in noun phrase structure

Predicative

- They seem *lonely*.
- It is *hot*.
- I found it *excellent*.

- Predicative Complements in clause structure

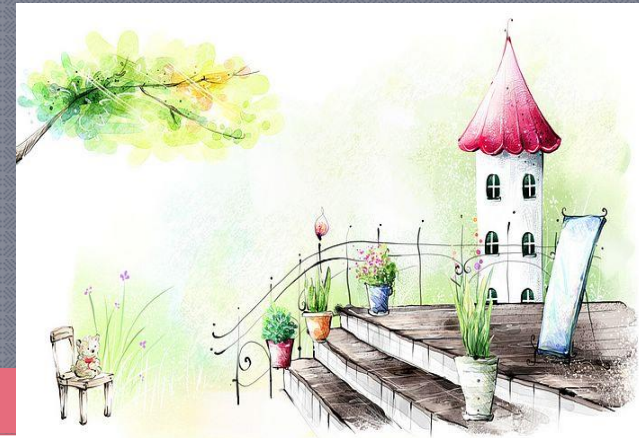
Some adjectives are restricted to one or other: the main speaker, the only problem vs. I am afraid; She is asleep.

Find the adjectives and decide whether they are attributive or predicative!



The young boy had never seen such a lovely house, with its colourful quaint windows and picturesque setting, shaded by ancient oaks and beeches. It was small and crooked, quite different to the manor-house in the distance with its stately towers and lofty battlements. To him, however, it looked comfortable and homely. He stood and stared, silent and respectful. Immersed in his own magical dream-world, he did not notice the slight, lone figure appear in the dark porch. As the old woman hobbled down the gloomy path, he was in a magical place, lost in dreams of full tables and warm beds. It was only the cold touch of an ancient hand that brought him back. And he fled, fearful. Wakened from a happy world to grim reality, he imagined the feeble owner of that cottage a cruel witch, yearning for his fresh young bones.

25 attributive adjectives
11 predicative adjectives



Find the adjectives and decide whether they are attributive or predicative!



The **young** boy had never seen such a **lovely** house, with its **colourful quaint** windows and **picturesque** setting, shaded by **ancient** oaks and beeches. It was **small** and **crooked**, quite **different** to the manor-house in the distance with its **stately** towers and **lofty** battlements. To him, however, it looked **comfortable** and **homely**. He stood and stared, **silent** and **respectful**. **Immersed** in his own **magical** dream-world, he did not notice the **slight, lone** figure appear in the **dark** porch. As the **old** woman hobbled down the **gloomy** path, he was in a **magical** place, **lost** in dreams of **full** tables and **warm** beds. It was only the **cold** touch of an **ancient** hand that brought him back. And he fled, **fearful**. **Wakened** from a **happy** world to **grim** reality, he imagined the **feeble** owner of that cottage a **cruel** witch, yearning for his **fresh young** bones.

 Predicative adjectives

 Attributive adjectives

Put the phrases and sentences into the correct column: decide whether the adjectives are attributive, attributive only, predicative or predicative only!

Attributive only

- What you say is sheer nonsense!
- The particular man I was seeking.
- Their chief faults.
- The sole survivor.
- She was left in utter devastation.

Attributive

- A larger than normal pay increase was awarded by the nurses.
- The green door opened slowly.
- Go to sleep little baby.
- I know he was a bad man who did vicious, horrible things

Put the phrases and sentences into the correct column: decide whether the adjectives are attributive, attributive only, predicative or predicative only!

Predicative only

- I felt ill so I went home.
- I am afraid I don't really agree with you.
- I hope you are ready for some hard work.
- The boy is asleep.
- The boat is adrift.

Predicative

- The children are happy.
- These look new.
- His horses appear well-groomed.
- My neighbors are Japanese.
- Her costume is strange.

Adjectives 2.

Gradability and grade

The most central adjectives are gradable

They denote properties that can apply in varying degrees

Can be modified by adverbs of degree

Can be inflected for comparative and superlative grade

Degree modification: *very good, quite hot, too old, incredibly bad* etc.

Inflection for grade: *hotter, younger, older, better, hottest* etc.

Adjectives 2.1

Gradability and grade



- There are non-gradable adjectives:

the chief difficulty, alphabetical order, the federal government, third place, her right eye etc. (non-scalar properties)

- There are adjectives that can be used in two different senses: one gradable, the other non-gradable:

The door is open. (non-gradable) vs. *You should be more open with us.* (gradable)

Adjectives 3.

The structure of adjective phrases

Adjective phrase

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graph TD; A[Adjective phrase] --> B[Adjective as Head, alone]; A --> C[Or accompanied by one or more Dependents:]; C --> D[Complements]; C --> E[Modifiers]; D --> F[Complements: good at chess, grateful for your help, keen on golf etc.]; E --> G[Modifiers: very bad, morally wrong, this good, a bit old, two days long etc.];
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Adjective as Head,
alone

Or accompanied by
one or more
Dependents:

- Complements
- Modifiers

Complements: good at chess, grateful for your help, keen on golf etc.

Modifiers: very bad, morally wrong, this good, a bit old, two days long etc.

Adverbs and phrases 1.



- Adverbs function as Modifier:

Verb *She SPOKE clearly.*

Adjective *It's a remarkably GOOD play*

Adverb *He spoke virtually INAUDIBLY.*

Determinative *Nearly ALL copies were sold.*

Prep phrase *She is completely IN CONTROL.*

Rest of clause *Surprisingly EVERYONE AGREED*

She PLAYED well.

It looks very GOOD

*They almost NEVER
reply.*

*Too FEW copies were
printed.*

*It's quite BEYOND
BELIEF.*

*Frankly, IT'S
USELESS.*

Underlining marks the modifying adverb and capitals what it modifies.

Adverbs and phrases 2.



- Adjectives or adverbs?
- He roamed the streets alone each night.

Prepositions and preposition phrases 1.



- Function of prepositions
 - Function as Head in prep. Phrases
 - Function as Dependent to any of the four major part of speech

Prep phrase dependent on:

Verb *She WENT to London. They ARE in the garden*

Noun *He's a MAN of principle. It's on the WAY to Paris.*

Adj. *She's INTERESTED in politics. I'm RESPONSIBLE for them*

Adv. *LUCKILY for me, no-one knew. I saw her LATER in the day.*

Prepositions and preposition phrases 1.2



- Preposition stranding
 - The Complement of a preposition is placed at the front of the clause or omitted altogether → leaving the preposition „stranded”
- a. *What are you looking at?*
- b. *It's something [which I can do without].*
- a. *This is the book [I was referring to].*
- b. *He went to the same school as [I went to].*



The term is due to John Robert Ross

Pied-piping is a phenomenon of syntax: a given focused expression takes an entire encompassing phrase with it when it is „moved” (e.g. wh-expression)

She bought the red house.

Which house did she buy?

(The interrogative word *which* pied-piped the noun *house*)



Pied-piping

Pied Piper of Hamelin (the figure of fairy tales) lured rats and children by playing his flute

Preposition stranding vs. Pied-piping



- Colloquial register → avoid pied-piping
- Formal register → opt for pied-piping
- When a preposition is stranded, pied-piping has not occurred and when preposition stranding is avoided, pied-piping has occurred

In which sentence does pied-piping occur?

Fred spoke with Susan.

- a. With whom did Fred speak?
- b. Who did Fred speak with?

Preposition stranding or Pied-piping?



1. There is the whole history of circumstances *to which* you may have possibly heard some allusion [...]
2. He was seized on Saturday with a return of the feverish complaint, *which* he had been subject *to* for the last three years; [...] A Physician was called in yesterday morning, but he was at that time past all possibility of cure---& Dr. Gibbs and Mr. Bowen had scarcely left his room before he sunk into a Sleep *from which* he never awoke. [...] Oh! dear Fanny, your mistake has been one *that* thousands of women fall *into*.
3. For whom is Fred waiting?



Thank you for your attention!