

Adjectives: Word Order (*a nice new house*) Adjectives after Verbs (*You look tired*)

A

Sometimes we use two or more *adjectives* together:

- My brother lives in a nice new house.
- There was a beautiful large round wooden table in the kitchen.

Adjectives like *new/large/round/wooden* are *fact* adjectives. They give us factual information about age, size, color, etc.

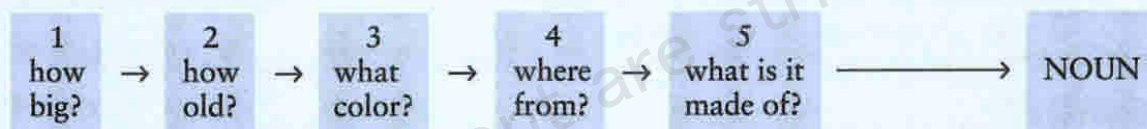
Adjectives like *nice/beautiful* are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what somebody thinks of something or somebody.

Opinion adjectives usually go before fact adjectives.

	<i>opinion</i>	<i>fact</i>	
a	nice	long	summer vacation
an	interesting	young	man
	delicious	hot	vegetable soup
a	beautiful	large round wooden	table

B

Sometimes we use two or more fact adjectives. Very often (but not always) we put fact adjectives in this order:



a tall young man (1 → 2)

big blue eyes (1 → 3)

a small black plastic bag (1 → 3 → 5)

a large wooden table (1 → 5)

an old Russian song (2 → 4)

an old white cotton shirt (2 → 3 → 5)

Adjectives of size and length (*big/small/tall/short/long*, etc.) usually go before adjectives of shape and width (*round/fat/thin/slim/wide*, etc.):

a large round table a tall thin girl a long narrow street

When there are two or more color adjectives, we use *and*:

a black and white dress a red, white, and green flag

but a long black dress (*not* a long and black dress)

C

We use adjectives after *be/get/become/seem*:

- Be careful!
- As the movie went on, it became more and more boring.
- Your friend seems very nice.
- I'm tired and I'm getting hungry.

We also use adjectives to say how somebody/something looks, feels, sounds, tastes, or smells:

- You look tired. / I feel tired. / She sounds tired.
- The dinner smells good.
- This milk tastes strange.

But to say how somebody does something, you must use an *adverb* (see Units 97–98):

- Drive carefully! (*not* Drive careful)
- Susan plays the piano very well. (*not* plays . . . very good)

Exercises

96.1 Put the adjectives in parentheses in the correct position.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. a beautiful table (wooden / round) | <u>a beautiful round wooden table</u> |
| 2. an unusual ring (gold) | _____ |
| 3. a new sweater (nice) | _____ |
| 4. a new sweater (green) | _____ |
| 5. an old house (beautiful) | _____ |
| 6. black gloves (leather) | _____ |
| 7. an American movie (old) | _____ |
| 8. a long face (thin) | _____ |
| 9. big clouds (black) | _____ |
| 10. a sunny day (lovely) | _____ |
| 11. an ugly dress (yellow) | _____ |
| 12. a wide avenue (long) | _____ |
| 13. a red car (old / little) | _____ |
| 14. a metal box (black / small) | _____ |
| 15. a big cat (fat / black) | _____ |
| 16. a little country inn (old / charming) | _____ |
| 17. long hair (black / beautiful) | _____ |
| 18. an old painting (interesting / Japanese) | _____ |
| 19. an enormous umbrella (red / yellow) | _____ |

96.2 Complete each sentence with a verb (in the correct form) from Box A and an adjective from Box B.

A

feel	look	seem
smell	sound	taste

B

awful	fine	interesting
nice	upset	wet

- Ann seemed upset this morning. Do you know what was wrong?
- I can't eat this. I just tried it, and it _____.
- I was sick yesterday, but I _____ today.
- What beautiful flowers! They _____ too.
- You _____. Have you been out in the rain?
- Jim was telling me about his new job. It _____ very _____ - much better than his old job.

96.3 Choose the correct word.

- This milk tastes strange. (strange / strangely)
- I always feel _____ when the sun is shining. (happy / happily)
- The children were playing _____ in the yard. (happy / happily)
- The man became _____ when the manager of the restaurant asked him to leave. (violent / violently)
- You look _____. ! Are you all right? (terrible / terribly)
- There's no point in doing a job if you don't do it _____. (good / well)
- This soup tastes _____. (good / well)
- Hurry up! You're always so _____. (slow / slowly)