

Adjectives: a nice new house, you look tired

A

Sometimes we use two or more adjectives together:

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

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

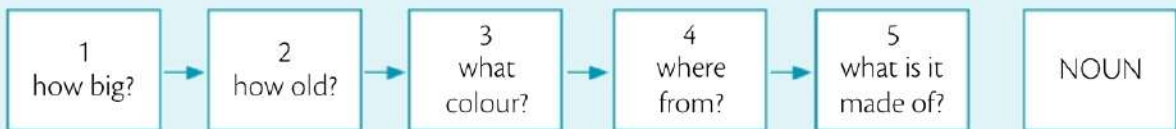
Adjectives like **nice/beautiful** are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what somebody thinks of something or somebody.

Opinion adjectives usually go before fact adjectives.

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

B

Sometimes we use two or more fact adjectives together. Usually (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 colour adjectives, we use **and**:

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

This does not usually happen with other adjectives before a noun:

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

C

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

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

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 tea **tastes** a bit **strange**.

But to say *how* somebody *does something* you must use an *adverb* (see **Units 100–101**):

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

D

We say 'the **first two** days / the **next few** weeks / the **last ten** minutes' etc.:

- I didn't enjoy the **first two** days of the course. (*not* the two first days)
- They'll be away for the **next few** weeks. (*not* the few next weeks)

Exercises

99.1 Put the adjectives in brackets in the correct position.

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

99.2 Complete each sentence with a verb (in the correct form) and an adjective from the boxes.

feel look ~~seem~~
smell sound taste

awful fine interesting
nice ~~upset~~ wet

- 1 Helen seemed upset this morning. Do you know what was wrong?
- 2 I can't eat this. I've just tried it and it _____.
- 3 I wasn't very well yesterday, but I _____ today.
- 4 What beautiful flowers! They _____ too.
- 5 You _____. Have you been out in the rain?
- 6 James was telling me about his new job. It _____ – much better than his old job.

99.3 Put in the correct word.

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

99.4 Write the following in another way using the first ... / the next ... / the last ...

- 1 the first day and the second day of the course the first two days of the course
- 2 next week and the week after the next two weeks
- 3 yesterday and the day before yesterday _____
- 4 the first week and the second week of May _____
- 5 tomorrow and a few days after that _____
- 6 questions 1, 2 and 3 in the exam _____
- 7 next year and the year after _____
- 8 the last day of our holiday and the two days before that _____