Unit 9

How to order adjectives in English

In many languages, adjectives denoting attributes usually occur in a specific order. Generally, the adjective order in English is:

Rule: **QQSASCMNN**

1-Quantity or number

Quality or opinion

2-Size

3-Age

4-Shape

5-Color

6-Material

7-Nationality

8-Noun

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Write the correct order for different types of adjectives.

blue/tables/wonderful/old/Spanish/round/tall/wooden/three

new/Japanese/black/medium/ten/plates/beautiful/square/ silver/

Plastic/green/Egyptian/box/aged/tiny/horrible/rectangular/one

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ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Adjectives - Word Order

Woodward ENGLISH

The general order of adjectives before a noun is the following:

Number	Opinion	Size	Condition	Age	Shape	Color	Origin	Material	Purpose	Noun
two	ugly	small	dirty	old	thin	red	Italian	cotton	sleeping	bags
one	beautiful	--	--	--	long	white	French	silk	wedding	dress
several	--	large	broken	ancient	--	--	Greek	clay	flower	vases

NUMBER Amount / Quantity
one, two, many, several

SHAPE Shape / Weight / Length
round, square, long, fat

OPINION Attitude / Observation
delicious, lovely, nice, cool

COLOR Color / Approximate Color
green, blue, reddish, purple

SIZE Size / Height
big, small, tall, huge, tiny

ORIGIN Where is it from?
American, British, Indian, Turkish

CONDITION Condition / State
clean, wet, rich, hungry

MATERIAL What is it made of?
gold, wooden, plastic, synthetic

AGE How old is it?
old, young, new, antique

PURPOSE What is it used for?
gardening, shopping, riding

Before **adjectives + noun** we normally have a *determiner*:
- a, an, the, my, your, her, four, this, those, some, etc.

Examples: - a wonderful large round Spanish marble table.
- my brown leather riding boots - the little old man

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