

B Grammar

B1 Adjective position

Adjectives usually go before nouns:

I bought a white T-shirt. (not a T-shirt white)

▲ Adjectives don't change. (~~not some whites T-shirts~~)

Adjectives go after some verbs (e.g. *be, get, become, look, seem, appear, sound, taste, smell, feel*):

They're comfortable and they'll look good with the skirt.

The material felt really soft.

▲ A few adjectives (e.g. *afraid, alone, asleep, awake*) cannot go before a noun:

The cat was asleep on the bed. (not The asleep cat was on the bed.)

→C1

B2 Adjective order

When there are two or more adjectives, they go in this order:

	opinion	size/age/shape	colour	materials	
a	lovely	short	black	wool	skirt
a	beautiful		grey	leather	bag
my	favourite	long	black		boots
some		old	blue		jeans

We put *and*

♦ between two colour adjectives: *a black and white belt*

♦ between two adjectives after a verb: *Clothes shops are always boring and crowded.*

▲ We don't say ~~my favourite and long and black boots~~

→C2

B3 Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed

Some adjectives have two forms: *-ing* and *-ed*. The adjectives have different meanings:

<i>-ing</i> adjectives describe people and things	<i>-ed</i> adjectives describe feelings
<i>Clothes shops are boring.</i>	<i>I'm bored.</i>
<i>That's surprising news.</i>	<i>We're surprised.</i>
<i>Computer shops are interesting.</i>	<i>You're not interested in clothes.</i>

→C3

B4 Nouns used as adjectives

When we put two nouns together, the first one works like an adjective, e.g. *a birthday party*: *birthday* tells us what kind of party it is.

a birthday party, a clothes shop, a computer game, a language school, a student card

→C4, C5

C Grammar exercises

C1 Match the halves of these sentences.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 My boyfriend sounded | a tired because I got up too early. |
| 2 The school was | b bad so we didn't drink it. |
| 3 My boss seemed | c wonderful because it was home-made. |
| 4 We got | d sad on the phone. |
| 5 The bread tasted | e angry but she was just in a hurry. |
| 6 I was feeling | f wet because we didn't have our raincoats. |
| 7 The milk smelled | g unusual because it had no rules. |

C2 Rewrite these sentences adding the adjectives in brackets.

- My friend gave me a ring for my birthday. (*silver/antique*)
 My friend gave me an antique silver ring for my birthday.
- I wore my jeans when I painted the ceiling. (*old/blue/dirty*)
- I borrowed my sister's dress to wear to the party. (*silk/lovely/long*)
- I was surprised that Mike wore that jacket. (*white/cotton*)
- He bought some shoes yesterday. (*expensive/new*)
- Jenny's father gave her a necklace for her 18th birthday. (*long/gold/beautiful*)

C3 Underline the correct adjective in each sentence.

- That was an interesting/interested lesson.
- My parents were tiring/tired after the long flight.
- We were boring/bored so we went to the cinema.
- I enjoy my job but it's very tiring/tired.
- You'll be surprising/surprised when I tell you what happened.
- We were exciting/excited about seeing Michael again.
- All the programmes on TV tonight look boring/bored.
- I'm staying in an amazing/amazed hotel.
- My friend was annoying/annoyed with me because I was late.
- Hans is interesting/interested in art so I took him to the Picasso exhibition.

C4 Match a noun in A with each noun in B then complete the sentences below.

A
address alarm bus city credit
football evening film fire
police traffic wedding

B
~~book~~ boots car card centre
~~clock~~ engine invitation jam
performance star stop

address book

alarm clock

- 1 I bought a new alarm clock because I couldn't wake up in the morning.
- 2 Everyone was looking at the as she came into the hotel.
- 3 The café wouldn't accept my so I paid cash.
- 4 I usually clean my when I get home from a match.
- 5 We couldn't get tickets for the so we went in the afternoon.
- 6 Our teacher was late because there was a big on the motorway.

C5 Read this email and look at the adjectives. There are eight mistakes. Correct them.

Hi Sally

I can't see you next week because I'm going on holiday with my parents.

We always stay near a very small town ~~town very small~~ on the coast. There is a lovely

and sandy beach and the sea is clear and warm. The town has lots of old

beautiful buildings. My parents like going to the galleries art but I get

boring so I go to the shops. You can buy cheaps clothes there.

I hope we go to my restaurant favourite.

Write back and tell me all your excited news.

Duncan