

ADJECTIVES (order)

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We can use more than one adjective before a noun. There is usually one correct order.

Learn this rhyme to help you remember the order of adjectives.

*In one humble tiny house
Lives an old round mouse.
It hates a grey Persian cat
Which sleeps on its bast door mat.*

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Quantity or number | - one |
| 2 | Opinion or general description | - humble |
| 3 | Size and weight | - tiny |
| 4 | Age | - old |
| 5 | Shape | - round |
| 6 | Colour | - grey |
| 7 | Country of origin | - Persian |
| 8 | Material | - bast |
| 9 | Purpose and power | - door(mat) |

Exercise I Put the adjectives in the box under the correct headings.

Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose
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French old horrible grey round shopping sports short middle-aged Italian plastic
beautiful writing ugly square red German small young white English curly large
leather cheap handsome paper tiny marble delicious silk long huge horrible

Exercise II Put the adjectives in the correct position.

A

- 1 a detective/ new / brilliant / French / film
- 2 a(n) German / brown / enormous / beef / sausage
- 3 a red and white / lovely / marble / Turkish / chess set
- 4 a(n) motorcycling / old / black / dirty / big / jacket
- 5 a(n) Greek/ ancient / fascinating / monument

6 a green / antique / really / big / old / car

7 a big / beautiful / white / bulldog.

B

Dear Ann,

It's a shame you couldn't make it to the wedding, but thank you for the 1 _____ (dessert / crystal / lovely) bowls which you sent us. The wedding was unforgettable and everyone looked beautiful, especially the bridesmaids in their 2 _____ (silk / long / cream) dresses. At the reception we had a 3 _____ (three-course / home-made / delicious) meal and the best man gave a(n) 4 _____ (amusing / nice / short) speech. In the evening more guests arrived and the hotel provided 5 _____ (Irish / live / excellent) music. Before we left, we cut the 6 _____ (wedding / white /iced) cake.

Hope to see you soon!

Love,

Jane and Peter.

Exercise III Which is the correct order?

A

- a) a small thin Japanese lady
- b) a small Japanese thin lady
- c) a Japanese small thin lady
- d) a thin small Japanese lady

B

- a) a steel new carving knife
- b) a new carving steel knife
- c) a new steel carving knife
- d) a carving steel new knife

C

- a) a new French exciting band
- b) an exciting French new band
- c) a French new exciting band
- d) an exciting new French band

D

- a) a blue long attractive coat
- b) an attractive blue long coat
- c) an attractive long blue coat
- d) a long attractive blue coat

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