

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:

-ing adjectives describe people and things	-ed 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 
- 2 The school was
- 3 My boss seemed
- 4 We got
- 5 The bread tasted
- 6 I was feeling
- 7 The milk smelled

- a tired because I got up too early.
- b bad so we didn't drink it.
- c wonderful because it was home-made.
- d sad on the phone.
- e angry but she was just in a hurry.
- f wet because we didn't have our raincoats.
- g unusual because it had no rules.

C2 Rewrite these sentences adding the adjectives in brackets.

- 1 My friend gave me a ring for my birthday. (*silver/antique*)

My friend gave me an antique silver ring for my birthday.

- 2 I wore my jeans when I painted the ceiling. (*old/blue/dirty*)

- 3 I borrowed my sister's dress to wear to the party. (*silk/lovely/long*)

- 4 I was surprised that Mike wore that jacket. (*white/cotton*)

- 5 He bought some shoes yesterday. (*expensive/new*)

- 6 Jenny's father gave her a necklace for her 18th birthday. (*long/gold/beautiful*)

C3 Underline the correct adjective in each sentence.

- 1 That was an *interesting/interested* lesson.
- 2 My parents were *tiring/tired* after the long flight.
- 3 We were *boring/bored* so we went to the cinema.
- 4 I enjoy my job but it's very *tiring/tired*.
- 5 You'll be *surprising/surprised* when I tell you what happened.
- 6 We were *exciting/excited* about seeing Michael again.
- 7 All the programmes on TV tonight look *boring/bored*.
- 8 I'm staying in an *amazing/amazed* hotel.
- 9 My friend was *annoying/annoyed* with me because I was late.
- 10 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
elek engine invitation jam
performance star stop

address book

alarm clock

- I bought a new because I couldn't wake up in the morning.
- Everyone was looking at the as she came into the hotel.
- The café wouldn't accept my so I paid cash.
- I usually clean my when I get home from a match.
- We couldn't get tickets for the so we went in the afternoon.
- 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.

