

# 99 Adjectives

## A Synonyms and opposites

Marcus Campion was a man of **exceptional** talent, who had been one of the most eminent lawyers of his generation. He was not a **conventional** lawyer, though, and had a reputation for defending men and women accused of the most **brutal** crimes. However, even he felt uneasy as he considered his latest case. 'This Mabbutt is a **bizarre** character, and I admit I haven't formed a wholly **favourable** impression of him,' remarked Campion to his colleagues. 'But I'm still **reluctant** to accept he might've killed his own children just to take revenge on their mother.' Campion had defended **wicked** men in the past, but this was a most **disturbing** case, and he sat down to start preparing his case with a heavy heart.

### GLOSSARY

<b>exceptional</b>	unusually good <i>SYN outstanding</i>
<b>conventional</b>	tending to follow what is done or considered acceptable by society in general <i>OPP unconventional</i>
<b>brutal</b>	violent and cruel <i>SYN vicious; brutality n</i>
<b>bizarre</b>	very strange and unusual <i>SYN weird, peculiar</i>
<b>favourable</b>	making people have a good opinion of sb/sth <i>OPP unfavourable</i>
<b>reluctant</b>	hesitating before doing sth because you don't want to do it or you are not sure it is the right thing to do <i>SYN unwilling OPP willing</i>
<b>wicked</b>	bad and morally wrong <i>SYN evil</i>
<b>disturbing</b>	making you feel anxious and upset or shocked <i>SYN upsetting</i>

### SPOTLIGHT *eminent and notorious*

Someone who is **eminent** is famous and respected, often for being good at a profession. If someone or something is **notorious**, they are / it is famous for being bad. *SYN infamous*  
▪ *a notorious criminal*

#### 1 Underline the stress on these words. Use the to help you.

brutal      bizarre      favourable      upsetting      peculiar      conventional  
reluctant      vicious      outstanding      eminent      notorious      infamous

#### 2 Circle the words which have a positive meaning.

outstanding      brutal      notorious      favourable      wicked      weird  
disturbing      upsetting      eminent      evil      exceptional      vicious      infamous

#### 3 Find seven pairs of synonyms in the box.

evil	exceptional	brutal	reluctant	wicked	notorious	bizarre
disturbing	infamous	unwilling	outstanding	vicious	upsetting	weird

..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... / .....

#### 4 Complete the sentences.

- 1 He was an ..... man and responsible for the deaths of many innocent people.
- 2 There's a ..... story in the paper about a man who lives underwater.
- 3 She's an ..... scientist as well as being a well-known writer.
- 4 It's become a/an ..... road because of the number of fatal accidents on it.
- 5 To see my sister shouting and screaming at me like that was very .....
- 6 He lives in a wooden hut without any electricity; it's a very ..... lifestyle.
- 7 He had an ..... game, and was easily the best player on the pitch.
- 8 It was a ..... attack, and the man needed 12 stitches for a head wound.
- 9 I was ..... to help, but I wish they'd made clear how big the job was.
- 10 It's a fairly ..... family: husband, wife and two children.



## B Adjectives easily confused

Adjective	Examples	Meaning
<b>comparable</b>	<i>The economic situation in this country is not really <b>comparable</b> to China.</i>	similar to another thing, situation or person, and able to be compared to it
<b>comparative</b>	<i>I've produced a <b>comparative</b> analysis of the two social care systems.</i>	connected with studying things to find out how similar or different they are
<b>naked</b>	<i>The child was almost <b>naked</b>.</i>	not wearing clothes
<b>bare</b>	<i>They walked in <b>bare</b> feet along the beach.</i>	(of a part of the body) not covered by clothes: <b>bare arms/legs</b>
<b>deadly</b>	<i>It's a <b>deadly</b> snake.</i>	causing or likely to cause death
<b>deathly</b>	<i>There was a <b>deathly</b> silence in the room.</i>	like a dead person; suggesting death
<b>comprehensive</b>	<i>I need a <b>comprehensive</b> list of the hotels.</i>	full, and including all necessary details
<b>comprehensible</b>	<i>It's a <b>comprehensible</b> story.</i>	able to be understood OPP <b>incomprehensible</b>
<b>super</b>	<i>We had a <b>super</b> meal at Gino's.</i>	<i>inf, becoming old-fashioned</i> extremely good
<b>superb</b>	<i>Kaufmann's performance was <b>superb</b>.</i>	excellent; of very high quality
<b>superior</b>	<i>This model is <b>superior</b> to the others.</i>	greater or better in quality than sth/sb else
<b>childlike</b>	<i>My brother has a <b>childlike</b> enthusiasm.</i>	<i>approving</i> having qualities typical of a child
<b>childish</b>	<i>My sister's behaviour is very <b>childish</b>.</i>	<i>disapproving</i> behaving in a silly way
<b>tasty</b>	<i>The dish was really <b>tasty</b>.</i>	(of food) full of flavour OPP <b>tasteless</b>
<b>tasteful</b>	<i>It's a very <b>tasteful</b> room.</i>	(of clothes, furniture, etc.) attractive and of good quality OPP <b>tasteless</b>

### 5 Correct the mistakes. Two sentences have no mistakes.

- 1 In some countries, women can't walk around with naked arms.
- 2 A comparative house in the south would cost twice as much.
- 3 My mother always wears very tasteful clothes.
- 4 The police found a bare body in the lake.
- 5 Some of these plants can be deathly and kill you in minutes.
- 6 I thought the beds were far super in the first hotel we stayed at.
- 7 He can be very childish if he doesn't get his way – it's very annoying.
- 8 The food is always very tasteful at Amy's.

### 6 Complete the sentences. The words in capitals at the end will give you some help.

- 1 I've done some research on the subject, but we'll have to wait for a more ..... study. **COMPLETE**
- 2 She still has a ..... quality about her, which is lovely. **INNOCENT**
- 3 I really enjoyed the orchestra, and the soloist was ..... . **EXCELLENT**
- 4 The woman was ..... pale and looked extremely unwell. **LIKE A DEAD PERSON**
- 5 Anyone could follow her instructions: they were entirely ..... . **EASY TO UNDERSTAND**
- 6 The soup was awful: very thin and ..... . **WITH NO FLAVOUR**

### 7 Complete the questions, then write your answers, or talk to another student.

- 1 Why do you think people might study ..... religion?
- 2 What type of place are you forbidden to enter with ..... arms or legs?
- 3 Why do some people find the instructions for electronic gadgets ..... ?
- 4 What kind of decoration in a home do you consider ..... ?
- 5 Why do you think adults sometimes suddenly behave in a ..... way?
- 6 Why do some people believe that a vegetarian diet is ..... to a meat diet?
- 7 Where might it be acceptable for someone to swim in the sea ..... ?
- 8 Where might you expect to see a ..... spider?

**ABOUT YOU**

