Unit 99

Adjectives: a **nice new** house, you look **tired**

A

Sometimes we use two or more adjectives together:

- My brother lives in a **nice new** house.
- In the kitchen there was a **beautiful large round wooden** table.

Adjectives like **new**/**large**/**round**/**wooden** are *fact* adjectives. They give us information about age, size, colour etc.

Adjectives like **nice**/**beautiful** are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what the speaker thinks of something or somebody.
Opinion adjectives usually go before fact adjectives.

	opinion	*fact*	
a	**nice**	**long**	summer holiday
an	**interesting**	**young**	man
	delicious	**hot**	vegetable soup
a	**beautiful**	**large round wooden**	table

B

Sometimes we use two or more fact adjectives together. Usually (not always) we put fact adjectives in this order:

1 how big?	→	2 how old?	→	3 what colour?	→	4 where from?	→	5 what is it made of?	→	NOUN

a **tall young** man (1 → 2)
big blue eyes (1 → 3)
a **small black plastic** bag (1 → 3 → 5)
a **large wooden** table (1 → 5)
an **old Russian** song (2 → 4)
an **old white cotton** shirt (2 → 3 → 5)

Adjectives of size and length (**big**/**small**/**tall**/**short**/**long** etc.) usually go before adjectives of shape and width (**round**/**fat**/**thin**/**slim**/**wide** etc.):

a **large round** table a **tall thin** girl a **long narrow** street

When there are two or more colour adjectives, we use **and**:

a **black and white** dress a **red**, **white and green** flag

This does not usually happen with other adjectives before a noun:

a **long black** dress (*not* a long and black dress)

C

We use adjectives after **be**/**get**/**become**/**seem**:

- **Be careful**!
- I**'m tired** and I**'m getting hungry**.
- As the film went on, it **became** more and more **boring**.
- Your friend **seems** very **nice**.

We also use adjectives to say how somebody/something looks, feels, sounds, tastes or smells:

- You **look tired**. / I **feel tired**. / She **sounds tired**.
- The dinner **smells good**.
- This tea **tastes** a bit **strange**.

But to say *how* somebody *does something* you must use an *adverb* (see Units 100–101):

- Drive **carefully**! (*not* Drive careful)
- Suzanne plays the piano very **well**. (*not* plays … very good)

D

We say 'the **first two** days', 'the **next few** weeks', 'the **last ten** minutes' etc. :

- I didn't enjoy the **first two** days of the course. (*not* the two first days)
- They'll be away for the **next few** weeks. (*not* the few next weeks)

» Adverbs → **Units 100–101** Comparative (**cheaper** etc.) → **Units 105–107**
Superlative (**cheapest** etc.) → **Unit 108**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

99.1 **Put the adjectives in brackets in the correct position.**

1 a beautiful table (wooden / round) a beautiful round wooden table
2 an unusual ring (gold) .....
3 an old house (beautiful) .....
4 red gloves (leather) .....
5 an American film (old) .....
6 pink flowers (tiny) .....
7 a long face (thin) .....
8 big clouds (black) .....
9 a sunny day (lovely) .....
10 an ugly dress (yellow) .....
11 a wide avenue (long) .....
12 important ideas (new) .....
13 a new sweater (green / nice) .....
14 a metal box (black / small) .....
15 long hair (black / beautiful) .....
16 an old painting (interesting / French) .....
17 a large umbrella (red / yellow) .....
18 a big cat (black / white / fat) .....

99.2 **Complete each sentence with a verb (in the correct form) and an adjective from the boxes.**

feel	look	~~seem~~	awful	nervous	interesting
smell	sound	taste	nice	~~upset~~	wet

1 Helen seemed upset this morning. Do you know what was wrong?
2 I can't eat this. I've just tried it and it ..... .
3 It's normal to ..... before an exam or an interview.
4 What beautiful flowers! They ..... too.
5 You ..... . Have you been out in the rain?
6 James told me about his new job. It ..... – much better than his old job.

99.3 **Put in the correct word.**

1 This tea tastes a bit strange . (strange / strangely)
2 I usually feel ..... when the sun is shining. (happy / happily)
3 The children were playing ..... in the garden. (happy / happily)
4 You look ..... ! Are you all right? (terrible / terribly)
5 There's no point in doing a job if you don't do it ..... . (proper / properly)
6 The soup tastes ..... . Can you give me the recipe? (good / well)
7 Please hurry up! You're always so ..... . (slow / slowly)
8 A customer in the restaurant was behaving ..... . (bad / badly)
9 The customer became ..... when the manager asked him to leave. (violent / violently)

99.4 **Write the following in another way using the first ... / the next ... / the last ... .**

1 the first day and the second day of the course the first two days of the course
2 next week and the week after the next two weeks
3 yesterday and the day before yesterday .....
4 the first week and the second week of May .....
5 tomorrow and a few days after that .....
6 questions 1, 2 and 3 in the exam .....
7 next year and the year after .....
8 the last day of our holiday and the two days before that .....

→ Additional exercise 31 (page 320)

LIVEWORKSHEETS