Order of Adjectives in a Sentence

There is some disagreement among linguists on how to order the adjectives in a sentence correctly. In *Practical English Usage* (Oxford), Michael Swan says that the subject is complicated, and that different grammars disagree about the details (as we'll see in a moment). But he gives 'some of the important ones:'

opinion	colour	origin	material	purpose

Doing the exercises, we will keep to the following adjective order:

1. opinion
2. size
3. other qualities
4. age
5. shape
6. colour
7. pattern
8. origin
9. material
10. purpose or type

Exercise 1. Use your instict and choose the most natural sounding alternative. Drag your chosen option into the sentence.

1. She was wearing a _____ evening-gown.

green long silk - silk green long - long green silk

2. He arrived in _____ car.

a beautiful old sports - a sports old beautiful - an old beautiful sports

3. She sat down on a _____ sofa.

comfortable leather black - comfortable black leather - black leather comfortable

4. She bought some _____ cushions.

enormous red striped - striped enormous red - enormous red striped

5. On the floor was a _____ rug

round patterned Persian - patterned Persian round - Persian round patterned

6. Beside the fireplace were two _____ bookcases.

antique oak French - antique French oak - French antique oak

7. She put on a _____ pullover.

yellow soft woolly - woolly yellow soft - soft yellow woolly

8. He was with that _____ friend of his.

clever handsome young - handsome young clever - handsome clever young

9. The concert was held in that _____ theatre.

amazing new glass - new amazing glass - amazing glass new

10. We sat down at an _____ table.

ugly oval pine - ugly pine oval - oval ugly pine

Exercise 2. Put the words into the right order.

1.

bikini	yellow	polkadot	wore	itsy-bitsy	teenie-weenie	she	an	.

2.

little	those	puppies	spotted	cute	look	black-and-white	at	Dalmatian	.

3.

beautiful	beach	deserted	discovered	golden	we	sandy	this	.

4.

production	new	enormous	facility	car	an	purpose-built	they've	opened	.

5.

teacher	young	got	Swedish	PT	we've	tall	a	good-looking	.

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