

Adjective forms

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Many university students have a part-time job.
b Many university students have a part time job.
- 2 a These jobs cannot be done by unexperienced young people.
b These jobs cannot be done by inexperienced young people.

There are many compound adjectives in English which are usually hyphenated:

- good-looking, good-natured, well-known, well-educated, well-paid, well-equipped
- badly-behaved, bad-tempered, ill-equipped, hard-working, easy-going
- short-lived, short-tempered, short-term, long-term, long-lasting
- fully-qualified, full-scale, full-size, full-time, part-time, time-consuming, time-saving

Many phrases describing the age, size or length of something are formed in the same way. When they are used before a noun, they are hyphenated:

a six-year-old boy	He is six years old .
a three-month training course	The course lasts three months .
a two-bedroom flat	a flat with two bedrooms

Adjectives are also formed using prefixes, especially to describe opposites:

dis- dissatisfied, disorganised	over- overcrowded, overpriced
in- inexpensive, inexperienced, inappropriate	post- post-school, postgraduate
im- immoral, immature, impolite	pre- pre-school, prearranged
non- nonexistent, non-smoking	un- unaware, unsuitable, unemployed

☆ Some of these adjectives are spelt with a hyphen and some as one word; check a dictionary for the correct spelling.

2 Correct the mistake below.

Don't you think that's
a bit inappropriate for
a job interview?

Don't you think



3 Underline the correct word.

- 1 The figure rose steadily over a 30 year/30-year period.
- 2 The stalls sell a variety of non-expensive/inexpensive snacks.
- 3 He was a polite, well-educated/good-educated man.
- 4 The family live in a simple, single-storey/single storeys house.
- 5 She is punctual, conscientious and hard work/hard-working.
- 6 Everyone needs a healthy, well-balanced/well balanced diet.
- 7 All supervisors must attend a week-long/one week long safety course.
- 8 Many tourists go into the mountains wearing insuitable/unsuitable clothing.