ADJECTIVES (order)

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We can use more than one adjective before a noun. There is usually one correct order.

Learn this rhyme to help you remember the order of adjectives.

In one humble tiny house
Lives an old round mouse.
It hates a grey Persian cat
Which sleeps on its bast door mat.

1	Quantity or number	- one
2	Opinion or general description	- humble
3	Size and weight	- tiny
4	Age	- old
5	Shape	- round
6	Colour	- grey
7	Country of origin	- Persian
8	Material	- bast
9	Purpose and power	- door(mat)

Exercise I Put the adjectives in the box under the correct headings.

Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose
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French old horrible grey round shopping sports short middle-aged Italian plastic beautiful writing ugly square red German small young white English curly large leather cheap handsome paper tiny marble delicious silk long huge horrible

Exercise II Put the adjectives in the correct position.

A

1 a detective/ new / brilliant / French / film
_____
2 a(n) German / brown / enormous / beef / sausage
_____
3 a red and white / lovely / marble / Turkish / chess set
_____
4 a(n) motorcycling / old / black / dirty / big / jacket
_____
5 a(n) Greek/ ancient / fascinating / monument

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_____

6 a green / antique / really / big / old / car

_____

7 a big / beautiful / white / bulldog.

_____

B

Dear Ann,

It's a shame you couldn't make it to the wedding, but thank you for the 1_____ (dessert / crystal / lovely) bowls which you sent us. The wedding was unforgettable and everyone looked beautiful, especially the bridesmaids in their 2 _____ (silk / long / cream) dresses. At the reception we had a 3 _____(three-course / home-made / delicious) meal and the best man gave a(n) 4 _____(amusing / nice / short) speech. In the evening more guests arrived and the hotel provided 5_____ (Irish / live / excellent) music. Before we left, we cut the 6_____ (wedding / white /iced) cake.

Hope to see you soon!

Love,

Jane and Peter.

Exercise III Which is the correct order?

A

a) a small thin Japanese lady
b) a small Japanese thin lady
c) a Japanese small thin lady
d) a thin small Japanese lady

_____

B

a) a steel new carving knife
b) a new carving steel knife
c) a new steel carving knife
d) a carving steel new knife

_____

C

a) a new French exciting band
b) an exciting French new band
c) a French new exciting band
d) an exciting new French band

_____

D

a) a blue long attractive coat
b) an attractive blue long coat
c) an attractive long blue coat
d) a long attractive blue coat

_____

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