

using adjectives as nouns, adjective order

adjectives as nouns

- 1 In most African countries, **the young** still look up to **the old**.
The poor are getting poorer, and **the rich** are getting richer.
The government needs to create more jobs for **the unemployed**.
- 2 **The English** are famous for drinking tea.
The Chinese invented paper.
The Dutch make wonderful cheeses.



- You can use **the** + some adjectives to talk about groups of people, e.g.
- specific groups in society, such as *the young*, *the old* (or *the elderly*), *the sick* (= people who are ill), *the blind*, *the deaf*, *the homeless*, *the dead*.
- some nationalities that end in *-ch*, *-sh*, *-ese*, and *-ss*, such as *the French*, *the Spanish*, *the British*, *the Japanese*, *the Irish*, *the Swiss*, etc. (most other nationality words are nouns and are used in the plural, e.g. *the Brazilians*, *the Poles*, *the Turks*, *the Hungarians*, *the Argentinians*, etc.).
- You can also use adjective + **people** to talk about a group of people, e.g. *poor people*, *homeless people*, *old people*, *French people*.
- To talk about one person, use, e.g. *a Japanese woman*, *a rich man*, etc. **NOT** *a-Japanese*, *a-rich*.

adjective order

- We've got a **lovely old** cottage just outside Bath.
 She has **long fair** hair.
 I bought a **beautiful Italian leather** belt.

- You can put more than one adjective before a noun (often two and occasionally three). These adjectives go in a particular order, e.g. **NOT** *an old lovely cottage*.
- Opinion adjectives, e.g. *beautiful*, *nice*, *lovely*, always go **before** descriptive adjectives, e.g. *big*, *old*, *round*.
- If there is more than one descriptive adjective, they go in this order:

OPINION	SIZE	AGE	SHAPE	COLOUR	PATTERN	ORIGIN / PLACE	MATERIAL	NOUN
expensive	little	brand new	long	purple	spotted	French	silk	scarf
beautiful						Italian		car

a Rewrite the underlined phrase using **the** + an adjective.

- People from Spain enjoy eating out. *The Spanish*
- People from the Netherlands tend to be good at languages.
 - Florence Nightingale looked after the people who weren't well during the Crimean War.
 - The system of reading for people who can't see is called Braille.
 - People from France think that their cuisine is the best in the world.
 - Ambulances arrived to take the people who had been injured to hospital.
 - People from Switzerland are usually very punctual.
 - The worst season for people without a home is winter.
 - There is a discount for people without a job.
 - The monument was erected to honour the people who died in the Second World War.
 - There are special TV programmes for people who can't hear, which use sign language.

b Write the adjectives in brackets in the correct place. Change **a** to **an** where necessary.

- a big car park (empty) a big empty car park
- a man (young / attractive)
 - shoes (old / dirty)
 - a velvet jacket (black / beautiful)
 - a girl (teenage / tall / American)
 - a beach (sandy / long)
 - a country house (magnificent / 17th-century)
 - a leather bag (Italian / stylish)
 - eyes (huge / dark)
 - a dog (black / friendly / old)
 - a T-shirt (striped / cotton)