Adjectives

An adjective is a word that describes or modifies either a noun or pronoun. Adjectives usually come before the noun that they describe and answer questions like:

- Which?
- What kind?
- How many?

Here are a few examples of sentences with adjectives:

- Henrietta was so worried about the final exam that she couldn’t sleep.
- Bear Bryant had the reputation of being an intimidating coach.
- Three bulldozers could be heard rumbling around during construction.

In the first sentence, “final” is an adjective because it tells us which exam Henrietta is worried about. In the second sentence, “intimidating” is an adjective because it describes what kind of coach Bear Bryant was. In the third sentence, “three” is an adjective because it answers the question of how many bulldozers could be heard during construction.

Often, more than one adjective can be used in a sentence to modify a particular noun or pronoun. Here are some examples:

- The grumpy old men annoyed him most of all.
- The mayor had a penchant for supporting odd and outdated legislation.

In sentence one, “grumpy” and “old” describe which men annoyed him. In sentence two, “odd” and “outdated” tell us what kind of legislation the mayor supported.

Occasionally, an adjective will appear after the noun or pronoun that they describe. In these cases, the adjective will follow a “be” verb (such as “is” or “was”) or a verb that relates to the five senses (such as “looks” or “smells” or “feels”). Examples:
• Her car was unreliable.
• The cat looked wild and feisty.
• The leftovers in Steve’s fridge smelled disgusting.