FUNCTIONS OF ADJECTIVES

Function of Adjectives

Adjectives can:

Describe feelings or qualities:

Examples
- He is a lonely man
- They are honest people

Give nationality or origin:

Examples
- Pierre is French
- This clock is German
- Our house is Victorian

Tell more about a thing's characteristics:

Examples
- A wooden table.
- The knife is sharp.

Tell us about age:

Examples
- He's young man
- My coat is very old

Tell us about size and measurement:

Examples
- This is a very long film.
- John tall man.

Tell us about color:

Examples
- Paul wore a red shirt.
- The sunset was crimson and gold.

Tell us about material/what something is made of:

Examples
- It was a wooden table
- She wore a cotton dress

Tell us about shape:

Examples
- A rectangular box
- A square envelope

Express a judgment or a value:

Examples
- A fantastic film
- Grammar is boring.
ADVERBS - FUNCTION

Adverbs modify, or tell us more about other words, usually verbs:

Examples

- The bus moved slowly.
- The bears ate greedily.

Sometimes they tell us more about adjectives:

Examples

- You look absolutely fabulous!

They can also modify other adverbs:

Examples

- She played the violin extremely well.
- You're speaking too quietly.
DETERMINERS

FUNCTION AND CLASSES OF DETERMINERS

Function

Determiners are words placed in front of a noun to make it clear what the noun refers to.

The word 'people' by itself is a general reference to some group of human beings. If someone says 'these people', we know which group they are talking about, and if they say 'a lot of people' we know how big the group is.

'These' and 'a lot of' are determiners in these sentences.

Classes of Determiners

There are several classes of determiners:

- **Definite and Indefinite articles**: the, a, an
- **Demonstratives**: this, that, these, those
- **Possessives**: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- **Quantifiers**: a few, a little, much, many, a lot of, most, some, any, enough, etc.
- **Numbers**: one, ten, thirty, etc.
- **Distributives**: all, both, half, either, neither, each, every
- **Difference words**: other, another
- **Question words**: Which, what, whose
- **Defining words**: which, whose

The following words are pre-determiners. They go before determiners, such as articles: such and what, half, rather, quite
The Gerund and the Present Participle: 'ING' Form

The '-ing' form of the verb may be a present participle or a gerund.

The form is identical, the difference is in the function, or the job the word does in the sentence.

The present participle:

This is most commonly used:

- as part of the continuous form of a verb,
  \( \text{he is } \text{painting}; \text{she has been } \text{waiting} \)

- after verbs of movement/position in the pattern:
  \( \text{verb } + \text{present participle}, \)
  \( \text{She sat } \text{looking at the sea} \)

- after verbs of perception in the pattern:
  \( \text{verb } + \text{object } + \text{present participle}, \)
  \( \text{We saw him } \text{swimming} \)

- as an adjective, e.g. \textit{amazing}, \textit{worrying}, \textit{exciting}, \textit{boring}

The gerund:

This always has the same function as a noun (although it looks like a verb), so it can be used:

- as the subject of the sentence:
  \( \text{Eating people is wrong.} \)

- after prepositions:
  \( \text{Can you sneeze without opening your mouth?} \)
  \( \text{She is good at } \text{painting} \)

- after certain verbs, e.g. \textit{like}, \textit{hate}, \textit{admit}, \textit{imagine}

- in compound nouns, e.g. \textit{a driving lesson}, \textit{a swimming pool}, \textit{bird-watching}, \textit{train-spotting}
Summary of Verb Tenses in English

SUMMARY OF VERB TENSES

Present tenses

Simple present: She wants a drink.
Present continuous: They are walking home.

Past tenses

Simple past: Peter lived in China in 1965.
Past continuous: I was reading when she arrived.

Perfect tenses

Present Perfect: I have lived here since 1987.
Present perfect continuous: I have been living here for years.
Past perfect: We had been to see her several times before she visited us.
Past perfect continuous: He had been watching her for some time when she turned and smiled.
Future perfect: We will have arrived in the States by the time you get this letter.
Future perfect continuous: By the end of your course, you will have been studying for five years.

Future tenses

Simple future: They will go to Italy next week.
Future continuous: I will be travelling by train.

Conditional tenses

Present conditional: If he had the money he would go
Present continuous conditional: He would be getting up now if he was in Australia.
Perfect conditional: She would have visited me if she had had time.
Perfect continuous conditional: I would have been playing tennis if I hadn’t broken my arm.
**Nouns** name people, places, and things. Every noun can further be classified as common or proper. A *common* noun names *general* items.

Go into the kitchen. What do you see? Refrigerator, magnet, stove, window, coffee maker, wallpaper, spatula, sink, plate—all of these *things* are common nouns.

Leave the house. Where can you go? Mall, restaurant, school, post office, backyard, beach, pet store, supermarket, gas station—all of these *places* are common nouns.

Go to the mall. Who do you see? Teenager, grandmother, salesclerk, police officer, toddler, manager, window dresser, janitor, shoplifter—all of these *people* are common nouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Noun</th>
<th>Proper Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>coffee shop</td>
<td>Starbucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waiter</td>
<td>Simon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeans</td>
<td>Levi's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sandwich</td>
<td>Big Mac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chair</td>
<td>Roll-O-Rocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arena</td>
<td>Amway Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>country</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fire fighter</td>
<td>Captain Richard Orsini</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here are some sample sentences:

Although there are five other chairs in the living room, everyone in Jim's family fights to sit in the puffy new Roll-O-Rocker.

**Chairs** = **common noun**; **Roll-O-Rocker** = **proper noun**.

Harriet threw the stale cucumber sandwich in the trash can and fantasized about a Big Mac dripping with special sauce.

**Sandwich** = **common noun**; **Big Mac** = **proper noun**.

Because we like an attentive waiter, we always ask for Simon when we eat at Mama Rizzoni's Pizzeria.

**Waiter** = **common noun**; **Simon** = **proper noun**.