

Basic English Review

Unit 7

Adjectives and Adverbs

Objectives

- To identify the functions of adjectives and adverbs
- To recognize and use the different types of adjectives and adverbs
- To write coherent sentences and paragraphs using adjectives and adverbs correctly

Section 20

Adjectives

- **Adjectives** modify (describe or limit) nouns or pronouns.
- They answer these questions about the nouns or pronouns they modify:
 - What kind?
 - How many?
 - Which one?

Descriptive and Limiting Adjectives

- All adjectives are either descriptive or limiting.
- **Descriptive adjectives** (*careless, red, hopeful*) describe, or provide a better picture or more details, about the nouns or pronouns they modify.
- **Limiting adjectives** (*a, an, the, three, several*) limit the scope of the nouns or pronouns.
- Name some descriptive and limiting adjectives.

Proper Adjectives

- A **proper adjective** is derived from a proper noun and begins with a capital letter.
 - Several Chinese students will be arriving in August to work at our Denver office.
 - Chinese—proper adjective—derived from the proper noun *China*
 - Denver—proper adjective—modifies the noun *office*
- Name some proper adjectives.

Section 20 Adjectives

Articles

- **Articles** (*a*, *an*, and *the*) are adjectives.
- The is a **definite article** that identifies a particular person, place, thing, concept, quality, or activity.
- A and *an* are **indefinite articles** that mean no particular person, place, thing, concept, quality, or activity.
 - A new software package will be demonstrated at the Thursday meeting.
 - A—indefinite article—no particular software package
 - the—definite article—a particular meeting

Section 20 Adjectives

Pronouns Used as Adjectives

- **Possessive** and **indefinite pronouns** are used as adjectives when they precede and modify nouns.
 - Our house was badly damaged by a tornado.
 - Our—possessive pronoun—modifies the noun *house*
 - Another solution was presented by Hank Berger.
 - Another—indefinite pronoun—modifies the noun *solution*
- Name a possessive adjective for two of the words and an indefinite adjective for the other two.

_____ dog	_____ budget
_____ subscription	_____ classes

Pronouns Used as Adjectives

- **Interrogative pronouns** such as *whose*, *which*, and *what* can also be used to modify nouns.
 - Which route are we taking to Tulsa?
 - Which—interrogative adjective—modifies the noun *route*
- **Demonstrative adjectives** not only modify nouns but also specify or call attention to them.
 - We need to recycle those soda cans.
 - those—demonstrative adjective—modifies the noun *cans*

Section 20 Adjectives

Nouns and Participles Used as Adjectives

- Nouns and participles may be used as adjectives.
 - My sister will take driving lessons when she turns 16.
 - driving—participle used as an adjective—modifies the noun *lessons*
 - I just purchased a laser printer.
 - laser—noun used as an adjective—modifies the noun *printer*
- Name two nouns and two participles with nouns they modify.

Compound Adjectives

- **Compound adjectives** are two or more words that act as a single modifier of a noun or pronoun.
- If they precede a noun, they usually are hyphenated.
 - We saw a broken-down car on the shoulder.
- If they follow a noun, they are hyphenated only if they function as compound adjectives and are in a shortened or an otherwise altered form.
 - I like my soda ice-cold.
 - That player is well known.

Section 21

Adverbs

- **Adverbs** modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.
- They answer questions like these about the words they modify:
 - When?
 - Where?
 - How?
 - To what extent?

Section 21

Adverbs

- Five types of adverbs:
 - Adverbs of time
 - Adverbs of place
 - Adverbs of manner
 - Adverbs of degree
 - Interrogative adverbs

Adverbs of Time

- Adverbs of time answer the question *when*.
 - We seldom sit in front of the fireplace and drink hot chocolate.
 - seldom—adverb of time—answers the question *when*—modifies the verb *sit*
- List three adverbs of time.

Adverbs of Place

- Adverbs of place answer the question *where*.
- Two common adverbs of place are *here* and *there*.
 - I go up four flights of steps to my office.
 - up—adverb of place—answers the question *where*—modifies the verb *go*
- List three adverbs of place.

Section 21 Adverbs

Adverbs of Manner

- Adverbs of manner answer the question *how*.
 - We walked quickly because it was cold.
 - quickly—adverb of manner—answers the question *how*—modifies the verb *walked*
- Adverbs of manner may also communicate affirmation or negation.
 - Logan never proofread his resume.
 - never—adverb of manner—answers the question *how*—expresses negative thoughts about the verb *proofread*

Adverbs of Degree

- Adverbs of degree answer the question *to what extent*.
 - Jesse is very lucky; he won a new car last year.
 - very—adverb of degree—answers the question *to what extent*—modifies the adjective *lucky*
- List two adverbs of manner and two adverbs of degree.

Interrogative Adverbs

- Interrogative adverbs introduce questions.
- *How, when, why, and where* are interrogative adverbs.
 - Where did you put my scarf?
 - Where—interrogative adverb—introduces a question—modifies the verb *did put*
- Write a sentence with an interrogative adverb. Indicate what the adverb modifies.

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

- Positive

- Sheila is a fast runner.

- Comparative

- Deborah is a faster runner than Sheila.

- Superlative

- Natalie is the fastest runner on the team.

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

- The **positive degree** is used when the person, place, thing, concept, quality, or activity modified is not being compared with another.
- An adjective does not change its form in the positive degree.
 - Layla is a stylish dresser.
 - stylish—talking of only one person—positive degree

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

- The **comparative degree** is used when comparing two persons, places, things, concepts, qualities, or activities.
- In most cases, add *er* to an adjective to form the comparative.
 - Julian is taller than Mark.
 - taller—comparison between two people—comparative degree

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

- The **superlative degree** is used when comparing three or more persons, places, things, concepts, qualities, or activities.
- In most cases, add *est* to an adjective to form the comparative.
 - Of all the clerks in the office, she is the busiest.
 - busiest—comparison of more than two people—superlative degree

Section 22 Degrees of Comparison

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

- Most two-syllable adjectives and all adjectives of more than two syllables form their degrees by adding *more* (or *less*) for the comparative degree and *most* (or *least*) for the superlative degree.
 - Greg is more cautious than Jill is.
 - He is the most annoying commentator.
- A guideline is to ask yourself whether the word would sound awkward if you added *er* or *est* to it.
 - Cautiouser?
 - Annoyingest?

Section 22 Degrees of Comparison

Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

- The spelling of some adjectives changes completely from one degree to the next.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
bad	worse	worst
far	farther or further	farthest or furthest
good or well	better	best
little	less, lesser, littler	least, littlest
much or many	more	most

Degrees of Comparison of Adverbs

- Adverbs have the same three degrees of comparison as adjectives.
- The rules for forming the comparative and superlative degrees are nearly the same.
 - Of all the students, Sylvia studied the hardest.
- For most two-syllable adverbs and all adverbs of more than two syllables, add *more* or *less* (or *most* or *least*) before the adverb.
 - John finished more quickly than Opendra did.

Section 22 Degrees of Comparison

Degrees of Comparison of Adverbs

- The spelling of some adverbs changes completely from one degree to the next.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
badly	worse	worst
far	farther or further	farthest or furthest
well	better	best
little	less	least
much	more	most

Section 22

Degrees of Comparison

- Give the comparative and superlative degrees for each adjective and adverb.

Adjective
proud
gentle
practical
good
useful

Adverb
early
quietly
high
well
seldom