

**Modifiers** are words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence used to describe a noun or verb. Adjectives, articles, and adverbs are all modifiers. (Looking forward, modifiers can also be infinitive phrases, participle phrases, and prepositional phrases. We'll get to verbals and prepositions soon!) Modifiers give dead sentences life!

**Boring:** The car raced down the street.

**Not as Boring:** The *flashy red* car raced down the *curvy street at midnight*.

**Adjectives** modify (describe) a noun or pronoun. They can describe size, shape, color, feeling, sound, number, or condition.

Most adjectives come *before* the noun they modify:

- The blue car, the anxious child, friendly people, a broken watch

Sometimes adjectives appear in the predicate part of the sentence. They are called *predicate adjectives* and typically follow a *linking verb*:

- The flowers were bright and fragrant.
- The team was sweaty after the match.
- Joseph was happy.

**Comparative Adjectives** compare one noun to another, while **Superlative Adjectives** compare three or more nouns. Think about them being *ranked*.

- Spaghetti is *better* than lasagna, but ravioli is the *best*.
  - *Better* is a comparative adjective
  - *Best* is a superlative adjective
- Other examples: worse/worst, smaller/smallest, lovelier/loveliest, higher/highest
- Sometimes there isn't a proper spelling of a comparative/superlative adjective, so you use more/most, less/least, or change the spelling as it's required.
  - This is an expensive sweater, but that one is *more expensive*. That dress is the *most expensive* of all.
  - I ran *far* today, but tomorrow I'll run *further*.

**Proper Adjectives** require a capital letter because they are derived from a proper noun.

- Swiss watch, Mexican food, the French flag, a Shakespearean play

**Compound Adjectives** are hyphenated descriptions of nouns.

- First-class mail, rain-soaked jacket, free-range eggs, five-paragraph essay

**Demonstrative Adjectives** point to nouns and answer *which one?*

- This/that, these/those
  - *This* coffee is delicious.

- *These* cookies are divine.
  - Not to be confused with **Demonstrative Pronouns**, which take the place of a noun.
    - *This* is delicious.
    - *These* are divine.
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**Articles** fall under the umbrella of adjectives because they help identify specific nouns.

- **Indefinite** article (non-specific): a or an
    - A red car raced down a road.
  - **Definite** article (specific): the
    - The red car raced down the road.
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**Adverbs** modify (describe) a verb, adjective, or another adverb. They tell *when, where, how, or to what an extent or intensity* a verb is carried out.

- The dog ran *quickly*.
- The dog ran *everywhere*.
- The dog ran *very quickly everywhere*.

**Comparative and Superlative Adverbs** often require an *-er* and *-est* added to the original adverb.

- He ran *faster* than her.
- She spoke the *clearest* of all.

### Confusing Adjectives and Adverbs

The cake was *bad*. (adj)

The ingredients were mixed *badly*. (adv)

This child is *loud*. (adj)

This child speaks *loudly*. (adv)

Go water the *outside* plants. (adj)

Let's go *outside*. (adv)

She is a sweet girl. (adj)

She talks very sweetly. (adv)

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An **Appositive** is a noun placed next to another noun to help give more information. An **Appositive Phrase** is a group of words that function as an appositive. Use commas to off-set them.

- My dog, *Major*, is a bluetick hound. He looks exactly like Smokey, *the UT mascot*.