Definition

Adjectives are words that describe or modify another person or thing in the sentence.

Adjectives nearly always appear immediately before the noun or noun phrase that they modify.

I prefer <u>casual</u> clothes.

Degrees of Adjectives

Adjectives can express degrees of modification:

Gladys is a *pretty* woman, but Joana is *prettier* than Gladys, and Sarah is the *prettiest* woman in town.

The degrees of comparison are:

the **comparative** and the **superlative**.

We use the comparative for comparing two things and the superlative for comparing three or more things. Notice that the word *than* frequently accompanies the comparative and the word *the* precedes the superlative.

The red shorts are <u>bigger than</u> the blue ones.

The green shorts are <u>the biggest</u> in the shop.

The inflected suffixes *-er* and *-est* suffice to form most comparatives and superlatives, although we need *-ier* and *-iest* when a two-syllable adjective ends in *y* (happier and happiest); otherwise we use *more* and *most* when an adjective has more than one syllable.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
small	smaller	smallest
lovely	lovelier	loveliest
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful

Certain adjectives have irregular forms in the comparative and superlative degrees:

Irregular Comparative and Superlative Forms		
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much many	more	most
far	further	furthest

The *as — as* construction is used to create a comparison expressing equality:

She is as glamorous as her mother.

The Order of Adjectives in a sentence

It is important to learn the pattern of adjective order, so look at the following table:

ORDER OF ADJECTIVES								
Determiner	Observation	Physical Description				Origin	Material	Qualifier	Noun
		Size	Shape	Age	Color				
	beautiful					Italian		training	shoes
an	expensive			antique			silver		ring
four	trendy	small			red		cotton		T-shirts
her			short		black				skirt
our		big		old		English			umbrellas