

TIPS & TRICKS

The phrase *these five interesting books* can help you remember the questions an adjective can answer: Which books? These books. How many books? Five books. What kind of books? Interesting books.

Reference Note

For more information about **demonstrative pronouns**, see page 54.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use adjectives. Identify and use demonstrative adjectives. Identify parts of speech.

The Adjective

1c. An adjective is a word that is used to modify a noun or a pronoun.

To *modify* a word means to describe the word or to make its meaning more definite. An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun by telling *what kind, which one, or how many*.

What Kind?	gray skies far-fetched tale	Irish lace lowest price
Which One?	either way next day	those girls last chance
How Many?	five fingers one river	fewer hours some problems

Demonstrative Adjectives

This, that, these, and those can be used both as adjectives and as pronouns. When they modify nouns or pronouns, they are called *demonstrative adjectives*. When they take the place of nouns or pronouns, they are called *demonstrative pronouns*.

Demonstrative Adjectives	Did Jennifer draw this picture or that one? Let's take these sandwiches and those apples on our picnic.
Demonstrative Pronouns	This is mine and that is his. These are much more expensive than those are.

Pronoun or Adjective?

Some words may be used as either pronouns or adjectives. When used as pronouns, these words take the place of nouns or other pronouns. When used as adjectives, they modify nouns or pronouns.

Pronoun	Adjective
I like that .	I like that shirt.
Either will do.	Either car will do.
Which is yours?	Which one is yours?
Whose is it?	Whose hat is it?

NOTE In this book, demonstrative, interrogative, and indefinite terms, such as those in boldface in the preceding chart, are called pronouns when they function as pronouns, and adjectives when they function as adjectives.

The words *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, and *their* are called possessive pronouns throughout this book. Some authorities, however, prefer to call these words adjectives. Follow your teacher's instructions on labeling these words.



HELP

Possessive forms of nouns are also sometimes referred to as adjectives. Follow your teacher's instructions regarding these forms.

Noun or Adjective?

Many words that can stand alone as nouns can also be used as adjectives modifying nouns or pronouns.

Common Nouns	Adjectives
cheese	cheese sandwich
snow	snow sculpture
winter	winter sale
weather	weather report
steel	steel girder

Adjectives formed from proper nouns are called *proper adjectives*.

Proper Nouns	Proper Adjectives
Choctaw	Choctaw tradition
Texas	Texas coast
Picasso	Picasso painting
Dublin	Dublin streets
Roosevelt	Roosevelt administration

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify parts of speech.

Reference Note

For information about **capitalizing proper adjectives**, see page 294. See page 50 for more on **compound nouns**.

NOTE Sometimes a proper adjective and a noun are used together so frequently that they become a compound noun: *Brazil nut*, *French bread*, *Christmas tree*, *Swiss cheese*.

Exercise 7 Identifying Nouns and Adjectives

Indicate whether each italicized word in the paragraph below is used as a *noun* or an *adjective*.

EXAMPLE Do you want to see my new [1] *baseball* card?

1. *baseball*—adjective

I love anything that has to do with [1] *baseball*. I save the [2] *money* I make mowing the golf course, and then I go to the [3] *card* [4] *store*. The [5] *store* owner sold me a terrific [6] *Don Mattingly* [7] *card* today. It came in its own [8] *plastic* case. I'll display my new card with my other favorites in a special [9] *glass* [10] *case* on the wall in my room.

Articles

The most frequently used adjectives are *a*, *an*, and *the*. These words are usually called **articles**.

A and *an* are called **indefinite articles** because they refer to any member of a general group. *A* is used before words beginning with a consonant sound. *An* is used before words beginning with a vowel sound.

EXAMPLES **A** girl won.

They are having **a** one-day sale. [Even though *o* is a vowel, the term *one-day* begins with a consonant sound.]

An elephant escaped.

This is **an** honor. [Even though *h* is a consonant, the word *honor* begins with a vowel sound. The *h* is not pronounced.]

The is called the **definite article** because it refers to someone or something in particular.

EXAMPLES **The** girl won.

The one-day sale is on Saturday.

Where is **the** elephant?

The honor goes to her.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use articles. (page 59): Place modifiers properly.

Adjectives in Sentences

An adjective usually comes before the noun or pronoun it modifies.

EXAMPLES Ms. Farrell tells **all** students that **good** workers will be given **special** privileges.
A **sweating, exhausted** runner crossed the line.

In some cases, adjectives follow the word they modify.

EXAMPLE A dog, **old** and **overweight**, snored in the sun.

Other words may separate an adjective from the noun or pronoun it modifies.

EXAMPLES Beverly was **worried**. She felt **nervous** about the play.
Cheered by the crowd, the band played an encore.

NOTE An adjective that is in the predicate and that modifies the subject of a clause or sentence is called a **predicate adjective**.

Reference Note

For more information about **predicate adjectives**, see page 247.

Exercise 8 Revising Sentences by Using Appropriate Adjectives

Add adjectives to make two entirely different sentences from each of the sentences below.

EXAMPLE 1. The waiter showed the woman to a table in the corner.
1. *The kindly waiter showed the shy woman to a pleasant table in the sunny corner.*
The haughty waiter showed the elegant woman to a private table in the shadowy corner.

- The blossoms on the trees filled the air with a scent.
- As the clouds gathered in the sky, the captain spoke to the crew.
- At the end of the hall were stairs that led to a room.
- The car has a stereo and an air conditioner.
- The singers and comedians gave a performance for the audience.
- The birds flew to the birdhouse near the barn.
- Theresa's interest in science began when she attended the class.
- The house in the valley was constructed by builders.
- The curtains on the windows added to the look of the room.
- As the waves washed onto the shore, the children ran away.

COMPUTER TIP



Using a software program's thesaurus can help you choose appropriate adjectives. To make sure that an adjective has exactly the connotation you intend, look up the word in a dictionary.

Link to  Literature

Review A Identifying Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives

Indicate whether each of the italicized words in the following paragraph is used as a *noun*, a *pronoun*, or an *adjective*.

EXAMPLE [1] Most high school *students* read at least *one* play by William Shakespeare.

1. *students*—*noun*; *one*—*adjective*

[1] *This* article tells about Shakespeare's *life*. [2] *Shakespeare*, perhaps the most *famous* playwright of all time, was born in Stratford-on-Avon in 1564. [3] He was baptized in the *small* church at Stratford shortly after *his* birth. [4] In 1616, *he* was buried in the *same* church. [5] If you visit his grave, you can find an *inscription* placing a curse on *anyone* who moves his bones. [6] Out of *respect* for his wish or because of fear of his curse, *nobody* has disturbed the grave. [7] As a result, his remains have never been moved to Westminster Abbey, where many *other* famous *English* writers are buried. [8] Visitors to *Stratford* can also see the house in *which* Shakespeare was born. [9] At *one* time tourists could visit the large house that Shakespeare bought for *himself* and his family. [10] *This* was where they lived when he retired from the London *theater*.

The Verb

1d. A verb is a word that is used to express action or a state of being.

In this book verbs are classified in two ways—(1) as transitive or intransitive verbs and (2) as action, linking, or helping verbs.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

A **transitive verb** is a verb that expresses an action directed toward a person, place, or thing. The action expressed by a transitive verb passes from the doer—the subject—to the receiver of the action. Words that receive the action of a transitive verb are called **objects**.

EXAMPLES When **will** Neil **ring** the bell? [The action of the verb *will ring* is directed toward the object *bell*.]

Juanita **mailed** the package. [The action of the verb *mailed* is directed toward the object *package*.]

Tell the truth. [The action of the verb *Tell* is directed toward the object *truth*.]

Reference Note

For more about **objects and their uses in sentences**, see page 105.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use verbs. Identify and use transitive verbs. Identify and use intransitive verbs.