

Lesson 24: Adjectives

LEARN

- An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun. It can tell *what kind*, and it can also tell *how many*. An adjective usually comes before the noun it describes.

WHAT KIND We visited a **large** refuge.

HOW MANY **Several** birds live in the refuge.



- When two or more adjectives describe the same noun, the order in which they appear follows a pattern. Adjectives that describe number come before adjectives that describe size, shape, color, or other qualities.

Two white swans have built a nest there.

They used **many dry** twigs to make the nest.

- An adjective can also come after the noun it describes. This usually happens when the adjective follows a form of the verb *be*.

The swan's nest is **round**.

The eggs are **white**.

PRACTICE

A Circle the adjective(s) that describe the noun in **boldface**. Then write the adjective(s) on the line.

1. A patient **swan** sits on the nest.
2. She protects three small **eggs**.
3. The nest is near a beautiful **lake**.
4. The swan chose a safe **location** for the nest.
5. Tall **grass** surrounds the nest.
6. Few **enemies** bother the birds here.

patient

three small

beautiful

safe

Tall

Few

7. The **eggs** are large.
8. The babies have sharp **beaks**.
9. Their beaks break the hard **eggshells**.
10. Soon the **babies** are free.

large
sharp
hard
free

B Circle the adjective(s) in each sentence, and underline the noun they describe. Then write the adjective(s) on the line.

1. Several ducks live near the lake.
2. Their feathers are waterproof.
3. Their feet are webbed.
4. Many hungry ducks dive for food.
5. They eat insects and small plants.
6. Their grassy nests are on the shore.
7. The geese near the lake are noisy.
8. Their honking is loud!
9. Five babies may follow an adult.
10. Their feathers are fluffy.
11. Nine geese are flying in a pattern.
12. The pattern is v-shaped.
13. The geese are watchful.
14. A goose is fierce at times.
15. Even the babies are bold!

Several
waterproof
webbed
Many hungry
small
grassy
noisy
loud
Five
fluffy
Nine
v-shaped
watchful
fierce
bold



Remember
An adjective describes a noun.
It can tell what kind or how many.

C Write an adjective to complete each sentence. Choose an adjective from the box, or use an adjective of your own.

beautiful	brown	clear	cute	flat
gentle	green	happy	long	peaceful
sandy	short	soft	sunny	tall

Answers may vary. Suggested answers are given.

1. We went to the bird refuge on a sunny day.
2. The sky above was clear.
3. A gentle breeze rippled the water.
4. A tall heron waded along the shore.
5. Its legs were long.
6. Beautiful water lilies were blooming on the lake.
7. A green frog sat on a lily pad.
8. Its short croak faded into silence.
9. Seven cute ducklings were swimming with their mother.
10. We walked down a sandy path along the pond.
1. A snake slept on a flat rock.
2. Three brown hawks circled overhead.
3. The soft buzzing of insects filled the air.
4. The bird refuge is so peaceful.
5. I was happy to be there.



WRITE



Sometimes you can combine two related sentences into one sentence by moving an adjective.

In the example below only the second sentence has an adjective. To make one smooth sentence, you can place the adjective *noisy* before the noun *blue jay* in the first sentence.

A blue jay squawked at a squirrel. The blue jay was noisy.
A noisy blue jay squawked at a squirrel.

In this example both sentences have adjectives. You can combine the sentences by placing the adjective *big* in the second sentence after the adjective *seven* in the first sentence.

Seven turkeys hurried by. The turkeys were big.
Seven big turkeys hurried by.

D The sentences in each pair below are related. Move the adjective from one sentence to the other to combine the sentences. Write the new sentence on the line.

1. Two doves rested on a branch. The doves were gray. _____

Two gray doves rested on a branch.

2. A hawk's shadow passed over the lake. It was a dark shadow. _____

A hawk's dark shadow passed over the lake.

3. A raven's call broke the silence. It was a harsh call. _____

A raven's harsh call broke the silence.

4. The sound echoed across the lake. The sound was mysterious. _____

The mysterious sound echoed across the lake.

5. We saw different kinds of birds. We saw eight different kinds. _____

We saw eight different kinds of birds.



Go back to the sentences you wrote. Circle the adjective or adjectives.