
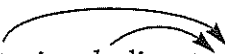


Adjectives

An **adjective** is a part of speech that describes, or modifies, a noun. Adjectives give information about how something looks, sounds, tastes, smells, or feels. These details are called sensory details because they give information about the senses.

Exercise 1

Draw arrows from the adjectives to the nouns they describe. For nouns with two adjectives, draw two arrows. The first two have been done for you.

1. electric blanket 
2. historic whaling town 
3. silent night
4. insulting remark
5. dangerous situation
6. azure skies
7. soft, powdery snow
8. famous ancestor
9. long and perilous journey
10. interesting question
11. random selection
12. deep dark forest
13. dangerous rapids

14. wise decision
15. large diamond ring
16. delicious, tempting dessert
17. jagged mountain peaks
18. exciting but risky adventure
19. peaceful scene
20. damp, foggy morning

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with adjectives to modify the following nouns. Then draw arrows from the adjectives to the nouns they modify.

1. _____ person
2. _____ assignment
3. _____ idea
4. _____ ship
5. _____ doctor
6. _____ vacation
7. _____ canyon
8. _____ action
9. _____ shadow
10. _____ skateboard

Exercise 3

Now fill in the blanks with nouns. Draw arrows.

1. durable _____

2. adequate _____

3. insoluble _____

4. complicated _____

5. shining _____

6. edible _____

7. vast _____

8. delicate _____

9. unfriendly _____

10. impossible _____

Exercise 4

Adjectives can make your writing more vivid because they can help your reader to visualize and experience what you are describing. Add at least two adjectives to each of the following sentences. Notice what a difference it makes.

1. The cow grazed in the meadow.

2. The duck waddled across the lane into the pond.

NOUNS

Developing better writing skills depends on learning to write better sentences. The exercises in this book are designed to help you structure interesting and varied sentences.

A complete **sentence** expresses a single idea. It must have a subject (noun or pronoun) and a verb. Usually the subject comes at or near the beginning of a sentence.

A **noun** is the name of a person, place, or thing. Use each of the following nouns as the subject of a sentence.

airport	skyscraper	sunflowers	engineer	telescope
magazines	peninsula	dolphin	California	chocolate

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

An **abstract noun** is the name of a quality or idea. Use each of the following abstract nouns as the subject of a sentence.

health	emergency	courage	peace	secrets
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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PRONOUNS

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun. On a separate sheet of paper write sentences using each of the following pronouns as the subject.

I	he	who	it	anybody
we	she	they	you	nothing

VERBS

A **verb** is usually an action word. One way to test whether or not a word is a verb is by seeing if it will fit into the following pattern:

I talk	We talk
You talk	You (plural) talk
He/she/it talks	They talk

On a separate sheet of paper use the following verbs in sentences. You may add endings such as *-ed*, *-ing*, or *-s* and/or helping verbs such as *am*, *is*, *was*, *will*, *shall*, *have*, *has*, or *had*.

invent	travel	accept	paint	vanish
complain	insist	organize	intervene	decrease

Beginning sentences with words like the ones below will help you write more interesting, varied sentences. Write sentences that begin with each of the following words.

1. Silently
2. Beyond
3. Intentionally
4. Yesterday
5. Avoiding
6. Unless
7. As soon as
8. Above
9. Whenever
10. Fortunately