

Grammar Lesson 7 Adjectives

An adjective is a word that modifies or describes a noun or a pronoun. They answer the questions:
What kind? Which one? And How Much or How Many?

Ex:

What Kind?	Which One?	How Much? Or How Many?
stone house	another one	seven rings
rushing river	next customer	more money
Irish linen	first day	some water
eager clerk	those people	several others
tired dog	that dress	many books
secret message	these mangoes	larger share

Important: In the above box you may have noticed words that are listed as adjectives that were previously considered pronouns. The reason why is because now these words are modifying/describing another noun or pronoun.

Ex: **These** flags are much more colorful than **those** banners are. (Here the bold-faced words are adjectives because they are describing the nouns that follow them, answering the question Which One?)

These are much more colorful than **those** are. (Here the bold-faced words are pronouns because they are *not* describing any noun. They are simply in place of a noun.)

An article is a type of adjective. They consist of the following three words:

Ex:

A	An	The
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Important: adjectives can come before or after the word they modify. Articles will always come before.

Ex: **Each** one of us bought **used** books for **the** auction. (“Each” modifies “one,” “used” modifies “books” and “the” modifies “auction.”)

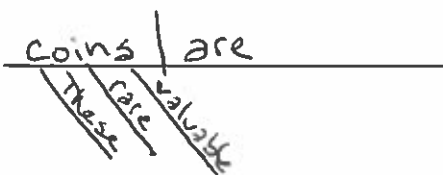
The blouse, once **bright**, now looks **faded**. (“The,” “bright,” and “faded” all modify “blouse.”)

These rare coins are **valuable**. (“These,” “rare” and “valuable” all modify “coins.”)

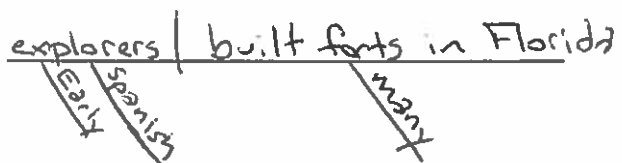
Diagramming adjectives:

Adjectives (almost) always go on a slanted line immediately below the noun that they modify. We'll address the exception to that rule later on when we study Predicate Adjectives.

Ex: These rare coins are valuable.

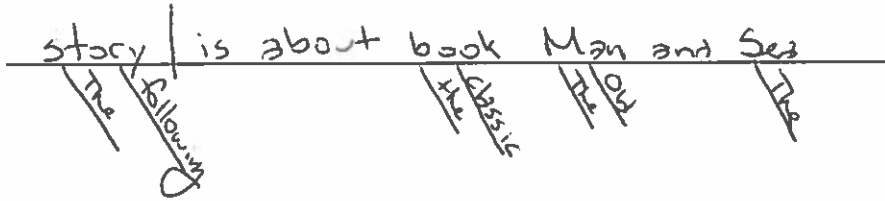


Early Spanish explorers built many forts in Florida.



Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, diagram the following sentences (refer to the subject/predicate overview handout as needed), putting all of the adjectives below the nouns they modify. Be aware that some of predicate may begin sentences, and some sentences may have a compound subject or compound predicate. While it's not required that you mark the subjects, predicates or adjectives on this paper first, it may be helpful.

Ex: The following story is about the classic book *The Old Man and The Sea*.



1. For eighty-four days, an elderly Cuban fisherman had not caught a single fish.
2. Many people considered the old man unlucky.
3. He remained hopeful despite his bad luck.
4. On the eighty-fifth day, he caught a ten-pound albacore.
5. He then hooked a huge marlin soon after that catch.
6. For two days, the courageous fisherman struggled with the mighty fish and finally harpooned it.
7. Exhausted but happy, the fisherman sailed toward the shore.
8. Within an hour, his bad luck returned, however.
9. What happened to the weary fisherman and his big catch?
10. Does the story have a happy ending? *(invert this question into a sentence before diagramming)