



CLASS IX AND X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART I
LESSON - 8
ADJECTIVES

NOTES

An adjective may be defined as a word which is used with a Noun and which adds something to the meaning of the Noun. It is also said to qualify a Noun.

Examples:

- (a) The **beautiful** girl is dancing.
(b) That boy is **strong**.

In sentence (a) the word *beautiful* is an Adjective used with the Noun *girl* as an **epithet** or **attribute** of the Noun *girl*. Therefore, this Adjective is said to be used **Attributively**. In sentence (b) the word *strong* is an Adjective used along with the verb *is* and helps to complete its meaning. Thus used as a part of the Predicate and is therefore said to be used **Predicatively**.

Note:

Some Adjectives such as **alone, asleep, alike, aloof, alive, ashamed, awake, aware etc.** can be used only **Predicatively**.

I. Adjectives may be divided into the following classes:

Adjective Class	Examples
1. Adjectives of Quality or Descriptive Adjectives	1. good, old, Indian, big, broken, pleasing etc.
2. Adjectives of Quantity	2. much, enough, whole, no, half etc.
3. Adjectives of Number or Numeral Adjectives	3. one, two, first, second, all, some, many etc.
4. Distributive Adjectives	4. each, every, either, neither etc.
5. Demonstrative Adjectives	5. this, that, such, yonder etc.
6. Interrogative Adjectives	6. what, which and whose



- 1. Adjectives of Quality or Descriptive Adjectives:** These **Adjectives** show the quality, kind or condition of a person or thing.

Example:

- (a) Mary Kom is a **great** boxer.
(b) He is an **Indian** actor.
(c) He has a **broken** leg.

The words given in bold are Adjectives qualifying the Nouns going with them.

Notes:

(a) The Adjective **Indian** is formed from the Proper Noun **India** and such an Adjective is known as Proper Adjective. The **Proper Adjectives** are generally classed with **Adjectives of Quality**.

(b) **Participial Adjectives** formed from **Present and Past Participle** forms of some **Verbs** also function as **Adjectives of Quality**.

- 2. Adjectives of Quantity:** **Adjectives of Quantity** show how much of a thing is meant. Some **Adjectives of Quantity** are **much, enough, whole, no, half etc.**

Examples:

- a. I don't have **much** time.
b. The **whole** amount is given to him.

- 3. Adjectives of Number or Numeral Adjectives:** These **Adjectives** show how many persons or things are meant or in what order any of them stands. **Five, all, most, several, few, some, first** etc. are examples of **Adjectives of Number or Numeral Adjectives**.

Examples:

- a. There were **five** men in the room.
b. Here are **some** roses.

Note:

Adjectives of Number or Numeral Adjectives are of two kinds. They are:

i. Definite Numeral Adjectives show an exact number

- a. one, two, three etc. (called **Cardinals**)
b. first, second, third etc. (called **Ordinals**)

ii. Indefinite Numeral Adjectives do not indicate any exact number. **Some, all, few, several** etc. are examples of **Indefinite Numeral Adjectives**.

Example: There are **some** boys outside.



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Note:

These adjectives i.e. **Indefinite Numeral Adjectives** are said to be used as **Adjectives of Quantity** when they are used with **Uncountable Nouns**.

Examples: some rice, all water etc.

4. Distributive Adjectives: They refer to each one of two or more persons or things. **Each, every, either and neither** are **Distributive Adjectives**.

Example: Each boy must take his turn.

Note:

a. **Each** refers to one of two or more persons or things. The emphasis is on the individual and not on the group.

b. **Every** refers to all of a group of more than two persons or things, taken singly.

c. **Either** refers to only one of two persons or things.

d. **Neither** is negative in implication and means **not either**.

5. Demonstrative Adjectives: They point out which person or thing is referred to. They answer the question: **Which?** **This, that, those, yonder, such** etc are examples of **Demonstrative Adjectives**.

Example: Those mangoes are ripe.

6. Interrogative Adjectives: Adjectives like **what, whose and which** are used with nouns to ask questions and are called **Interrogative Adjectives**. 'What' is used in a general sense and 'which' is used in a selective sense.

Example: Whose house is this?

II. Adjectives are also classified in a new way.

1. Proper Adjectives formed from **Proper Nouns**.

Example: I don't like **Chinese** films.

2. Adjectives of Quality denoting some quality of Noun or Pronoun.

Example: He is a **brave** boy.

3. Adjectives of Colour describing the colour of the Noun they qualify.

Example: I saw a **black** bird.

4. Adjectives of Emphasis lay stress on a fact about the Nouns they qualify.

Example: She is a **pure** vegetarian.

5. Adjectives of Class describing the class or category to which the Nouns, qualified by them, belong.

Example: We need some **domestic** help.



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6. Compound Adjectives, made up of two or more words and usually written with a hyphen (-) in between.

Example: There is no **clear-cut answer** to this question.

7. Possessive Adjectives showing possession or ownership of the Nouns they qualify.

Example: These are **my** mangoes.



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