

Using adjectives

- Describe nouns. Same in plural and in singular: *It's a **big** house.*
- They can also go with verb "To Be": *I'm **rich**.*
- They can be:
 - factual: *big, squared, green...*
 - opinion: *awful, horrible...*
- Some important adjective endings:
 - From nouns and verbs: *-able, -al, -ant, --ar, -ary, -ate, -ial, -ent, -ious, -ish, -ist, -ive, -less, -like, -ly, -ory, -ous, -some, -y.*
- Some prefixes: *ab-, dis-, ant-, im-, in-, ir-, mal-, over-, etc-*
- Compound nouns:
 - Present participle: *a long-haul ticket*
 - Past participle: *an overcooked steak*
 - Cardinal number + noun: *a 3-star hotel*
 - Poorly, Well, Badly and Ill + past participle: *a badly-finished room*
- Present and past participles can be used as adjectives: *a boring theatre play£*

Look at the way we normally describe in English Periods and styles:

A XVI century **church**
A XVI century Gothic **cathedral**

In this example, century is a noun acting as an adjective, that's why it is not used in the plural. Similar examples will happen when we use the following structure:

Each	} + number	+ Noun as adjective	+ noun	Each XII-century castle
A + number				A XII-century castle
This / that	} + number	+ Noun as adjective	+ noun (sg/pl)	This 5-star hotel
Possessive				Your 5-star hotel(s)
All	} + number	+ Noun as adjective	+ Plural noun	All XII century castles
These /those				These XII-century castles
	Number	+ Noun as adjective	+ Plural noun	XII-century castles

In addition, when describing, we must be very careful with the adjective we uses, as we must follow an established order or position depending on the type of adjectives we are using. Normally we don't use more than three adjectives with the same noun. Notice that when we use adjectives from different categories we don't use commas or "and". Here is the most common order:

Number	Opinion	Dimension	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin Period	Material	Type Purpose	+ Noun
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

(article) + number + judgement/attitude + size, length, height + age + colour + origin + material + purpose + noun

Examples:

- 1.- An interesting visit
- 2.- A huge castle
- 3.- An ancient ruin
- 4.- An oval arch
- 5.- Picasso's pink period
- 6.- A Christian building
- 7.- A wooden church
- 8.- A grist mill

Furthermore, **first**, **next** and **last** most often go before one, two, three etc.
The last two kings

Let's see some examples with three adjectives combined following the above rule:

- A wonderful Romanesque stone church. (opinion - period - material)
- A big square medieval castle. (dimension - shape - period)
- A horrible pink plastic necklace. (opinion - color - material)
- Some narrow XIX-century cobbled streets. (dimension - age - material)

Emphasis & Rhythm

We can sometimes use emphasis and rhythm to give importance to some specific part of the sentence.

Work with these sentences and give emphasis to different information each time.

1. **Doric** columns are the simplest. (Not Ionic)
Doric columns are the **simplest**. (Not the most ornate)
2. The **Corinthian** order is the most decorative. (not the Doric.)
The Corinthian order is the **most** decorative. (not the least)
The Corinthian order is the most **decorative**. (not plain.)

Now, you decide:

3. The area above the column, called the *frieze*
4. Perhaps the most famous one is the Parthenon in Athens
5. The *metope* [pronounced "met-o-pee"] is a plain, smooth stone section between triglyphs.

A.- Now, create your own emphatic sentences using the proposed structure and words.

It was Peter who visited London.
It was that picture which was stolen

It was.....

1. (statue): _____
2. (helmet): _____
3. (Picasso): _____
4. (pottery): _____
5. (castle): _____

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