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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A XVI century church</th>
<th>A XVI century Gothic cathedral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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
- This / that + number + Noun as adjective + noun
- Possessive + number + Noun as adjective + noun (sg/pl)
- All / these / those + number + Noun as adjective + Plural noun
- Number + Noun as adjective + Plural noun

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Origin Period</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Type Purpose</th>
<th>+ Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(articale) + 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): ____________________________________________
Bibliography:

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.