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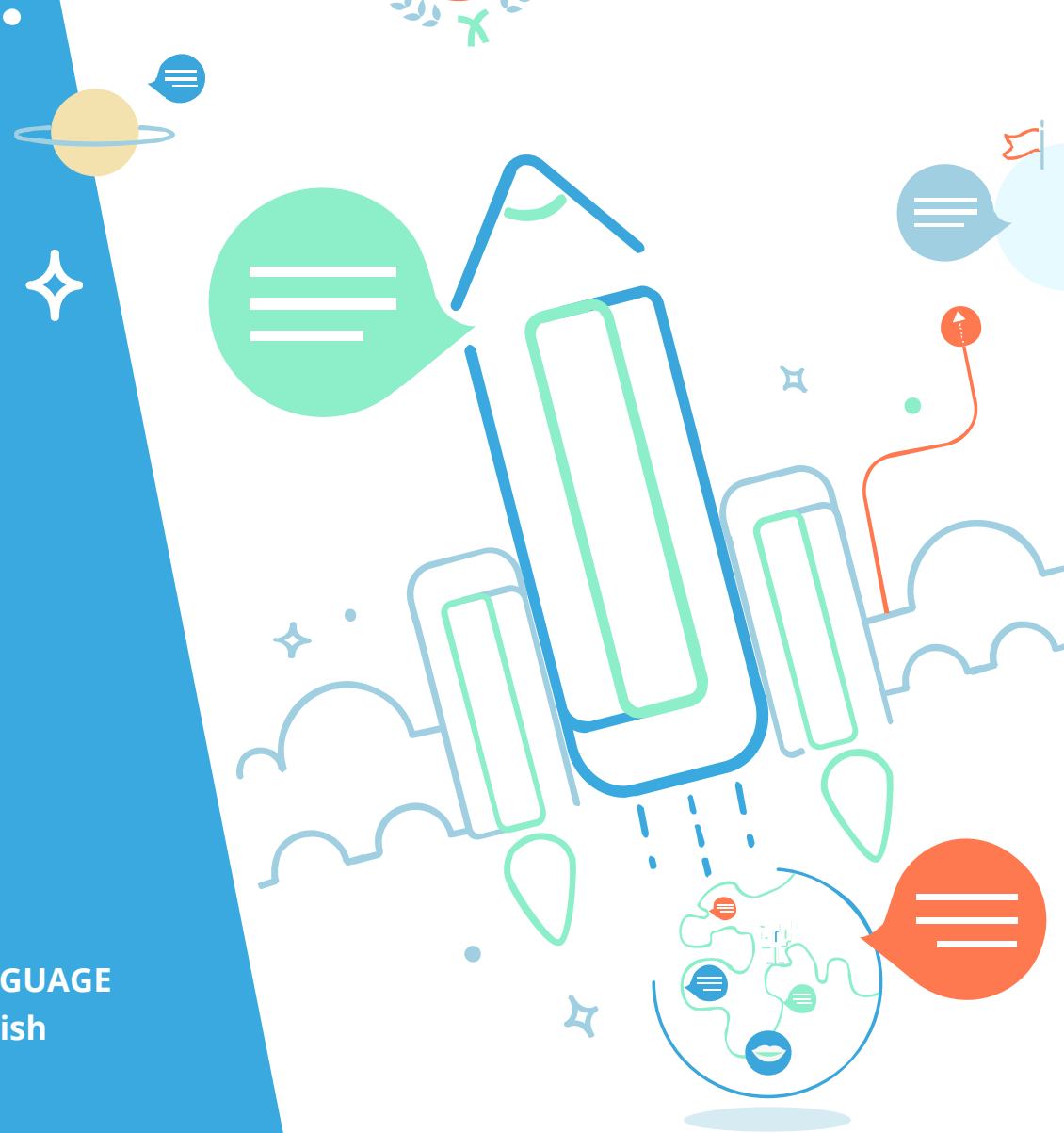
# Position of adjectives & adverbs

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2061G\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



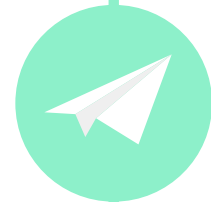


## Goals

- Can recognise and explain the specific order of adjectives and adverbs in complex sentences.
- Can write a longer description using multiple adjectives and adverbs.



Claire skipped **happily** towards her **extra** English lesson, humming **excitedly** to herself and wondering about what she was going to learn in the **interesting, hour-long** class.





## Preview and warm-up

- This lesson is about the placement of adjectives and adverbs in complex sentences.



An **old, happy** lady or a **happy, old** lady?



## Placement of adjectives

- Ask every native English speaker which is correct on the previous page and they will immediately be able to tell you. But they more than likely won't be able to tell you why. Native speakers know the **order of adjectives** instinctively, but learners of English have to be taught.



A **happy**, **old** lady.



## Order of adjectives

- When we want to describe something using **more than one adjective** we must follow a certain order in English.
- To do otherwise is grammatically wrong and will have native speakers thinking you're a maniac. On the next two pages are the **ten types of adjectives** and their **order**.

Order	Attribute	Example
1	opinion	ugly, unusual, wonderful
2	size	big, tiny, tall
3	physical quality	thick, smooth, tidy
4	shape	round, square, circular
5	age	old, new, ancient



## Order of adjectives

- The order of adjectives continued.

Order	Attribute	Example
6	colour	red, green, brown
7	origin	French, Japanese, British
8	material	wooden, silk, cotton
9	type	three-sided, o-shaped, general-purpose
10	purpose	sharpening, cleaning, cooking



## Order of adjectives

- Of course, we never use all ten types of adjectives in one sentence, but we can come close.

An annoying, small, circular, black, Chinese alarm clock wakes me up every day.







## Correct the sentences with adjectives in the wrong order

	CORRECT	INCORRECT
1. A fresh, green apple.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. A small, French, pink, delicious, round cupcake.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A brand-new, sleek, bright-red, beautiful sports car.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. A gorgeous, newly-built, white, English cottage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. A Turkish, large, red, woollen, old carpet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. A big, untidy, square, blue bedroom.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Describe the pictures

**Describe what you can see in the pictures.  
Use as many adjectives in the correct order as possible.**





Describe your possessions

**Describe two of your  
most treasured  
possessions to your  
teacher.**

beautiful

ancient

turquoise

gold

miniscule



## Attributive and predicative adjectives

- Most adjectives can be **attributive** and **predicative**.
- **Attributive** adjectives are placed before the noun.
- **Predicative** adjectives are placed after the noun, and after a verb such as *be*, *look*, *seem*, or *become*.

Attributive position	Predicative position
The <b>black</b> cat.	The cat was <b>black</b> .
The <b>tall</b> man.	The man looked <b>tall</b> .
A <b>happy</b> boy.	The boy seemed <b>happy</b> .
A <b>tired</b> baby.	The baby became <b>tired</b> .
A <b>pretty</b> girl.	The girl was <b>pretty</b> .



## Attributive adjectives

- Some adjectives are only **attributive** or only **predicative**.
- Here are some examples of **attributive adjectives** which can only be used before the noun.

### Attributive adjectives

My **elder** sister.

The **main** problem.

It sells **live** animals.

He has a **little** car.

It is a **mere** scratch.





## Predicative adjectives

- Here are some examples of **predicative adjectives** which can only be used after the noun.

### Predicative adjectives

She was **alone**.

The baby is **awake**.

James looked **afraid**.

She feels **ill**.





## Attributive and predicative adjectives

Here are some more examples of adjectives which are **only attributive** or **only predicative**.

Attributive only	Predicative only
He is the <b>sole</b> occupant of the house.	I am <b>ready</b> to go.
It's <b>utter</b> madness.	The house was <b>ablaze</b> .
He's an <b>out and out</b> liar.	Something was definitely <b>amiss</b> .
He is an <b>indoor</b> cat.	I was <b>bereft</b> when my cat died.



## Find 5 mistakes

**Find 5 mistakes with attributive or predicative adjectives in the text. When correcting the mistakes, you may need to make changes to the surrounding text. Once you've identified mistakes, explain how you would fix each one.**

Finally, the day arrived when my sister elder was getting married. She was absolutely over the moon about it, but she was also feeling nervous the night before. In fact, my awake sister was found at 4am, checking that her dress was in good shape. It turned out that she had good reason to worry: after my very caring but rather scatter-brained mother had cooked breakfast for us, she left the stove on and we returned to the kitchen to find an ablaze room. We doused the flames but my sister's dress had caught fire and the hole was little but noticeable. My bereft sister cried and cried.







## Identifying adjectives

**Identify the attributive and predicative adjectives in these sentences.**

1. The big, brown bear was asleep in his cave.
2. The most recent house that we wanted to buy was beautiful but overpriced.
3. The gold medal that you won for that difficult contest was well-deserved.
4. That fancy food is really expensive but delicious.
5. The board members who were present voted against the incumbent chairman.
6. The mere thought of skydiving was so terrifying that I backed out.





## Fill in the gaps

Here is a definition of civilisation with the adjectives removed. Read through the text and put the adjectives back in. Then, discuss with your teacher whether you agree with this definition of civilisation.

### Civilisation

What exactly is civilisation? How is it defined and what are its \_\_\_\_\_ characteristics? Civilisation is generally defined as an \_\_\_\_\_ state of human society, containing highly \_\_\_\_\_ forms of government, culture and societal norms. However, there is rather a lot of subjectivity involved, and it is a \_\_\_\_\_ issue. Who defines what is *advanced* or *developed*, for example? There are certain core characteristics suggested by anthropologists for defining a civilisation; they include \_\_\_\_\_ centres, \_\_\_\_\_ manipulation, \_\_\_\_\_ stratification, a \_\_\_\_\_ religion, and \_\_\_\_\_ language.

tricky

social

core

urban

advanced

written

agricultural

developed

common



## Adverbs of manner

- Adverbs of **manner** give information about **how** something happens or is done. They are usually in the **end position** in a sentence.

### Adverbs of manner

She spoke **quietly**.

He changed his clothes **quickly**.

He sat **in silence**.

She slept **like a baby**.

He looked at her **in dismay**.





## Adverbs of place and time

- Like adverbs of manner, adverbs of **place** and **time** usually come in the **end position**. They describe **where** or **when** something happened.

Place	Time
Come over <b>here</b> .	I'm taking the train to London <b>tomorrow</b> .
She was sitting <b>outside</b> .	He's leaving <b>tonight</b> .
Sharks live <b>under the sea</b> .	I'll be there <b>in a minute</b> .
Our luck is <b>somewhere over the rainbow</b> .	I went to the gym <b>already</b> .



## Adverbs of place and time



- Sometimes adverbs of **place** come in the **first position**, especially in writing.
- Adverbs of **time** can also come in the **first position** when we really want to emphasise the time.

Place	Time
<b>Inside</b> there was a beautiful chair.	<b>Tomorrow</b> I'm going to call him.
<b>Under the apple tree</b> sat a man.	<b>In two seconds</b> I'm going to lose my temper.
<b>On the shelf</b> there was a teapot.	<b>Today</b> is the day.





## Adverbs of degree

- Adverbs of **degree** usually come either in the **mid position** or in the **end position**. Look at the examples below.

Mid position	End position
I <b>really</b> love you.	I like it <b>a lot</b> .
She was <b>incredibly</b> beautiful.	Is the coffee hot <b>enough</b> ?
It's <b>quite</b> a nice view.	It hurt <b>a bit</b> .
It is <b>too</b> hot.	I want to come <b>too</b> .



## Evaluative and viewpoint adverbs

- **Evaluative** and **viewpoint** adverbs usually go outside of the clause, normally at the **beginning**.
- **Evaluative** adverbs can also go in the **mid position**.

Evaluative	Viewpoint
<b>Stupidly</b> , I didn't check.	<b>Personally</b> , I don't see why not.
<b>Unfortunately</b> , he is not here.	<b>Frankly</b> , I wouldn't be surprised.
She <b>bravely</b> travelled on her own.	<b>To be perfectly frank</b> , he has always been unreliable.
<b>Astonishingly</b> , she passed her exams.	<b>From my perspective</b> , it looks wonderful.
<b>Interestingly</b> , he is very good at poker.	<b>To my knowledge</b> , there's no reason not to.



## Order of multiple adverbs

- If you have **multiple adverbs** modifying the same word, they must come in a certain **order**, just like adjectives.
- The order is below.

- Manner
- Place
- Frequency
- Time
- Purpose

- I run energetically at home every day before work to get fit.
- We have meetings in the boardroom on Monday mornings to discuss the week ahead.
- The baby takes a nap in the living room most days after lunch.





## Correct the sentences

**Decide whether the sentences are correct according to the placement of adverbs. If they are incorrect, make them right.**

1. Every morning, James jogs jauntily to the shop to buy a newspaper.
2. The monk in silence sat waiting for an answer in the vestry.
3. He is very rude. He over me speaks every time I talk to be perfectly frank.
4. I pedalled determinedly up the hill with gritted teeth, but only once and never again.
5. Father Christmas waits before Christmas every year patiently for letters.



## Make these sentences more interesting by adding as many adjectives, adverbs and adverbial phrases as possible

1. John bought a car.



John hurriedly bought a brand-new, shiny, red sports car because his old one was shockingly stolen by remorseless thieves.

2. Greg helped me.



\_\_\_\_\_

3. Tom ran away from the monster.



\_\_\_\_\_

4. Alice swam in the river.



\_\_\_\_\_

5. The dog ate the newspaper.



\_\_\_\_\_



## Creating sentences

Create sentences using the adverbs below. Try not to repeat the adverbs in the sentences.

personally

in dismay

frankly

in silence

enough

recklessly

tomorrow

incredibly

stupidly

every day

bravely

astonishingly



## Writing

**Write a short story of about 150 words about something that happened to you on a recent holiday. Use as many adjectives and adverbs as possible.**





## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Answer key

### Exercise p. 18

core, advanced, developed, tricky,  
urban, agricultural, social, common,  
written

### Exercise p. 25

1. Correct, 2. Incorrect: The monk sat in  
silence in the vestry, waiting for an  
answer. 3. Incorrect: To be perfectly  
frank, he is very rude. He speaks over  
me every time I talk. 4. Correct, 5.  
Incorrect: Every year before Christmas,  
Father Christmas waits patiently for  
letters.

### Exercise p. 9

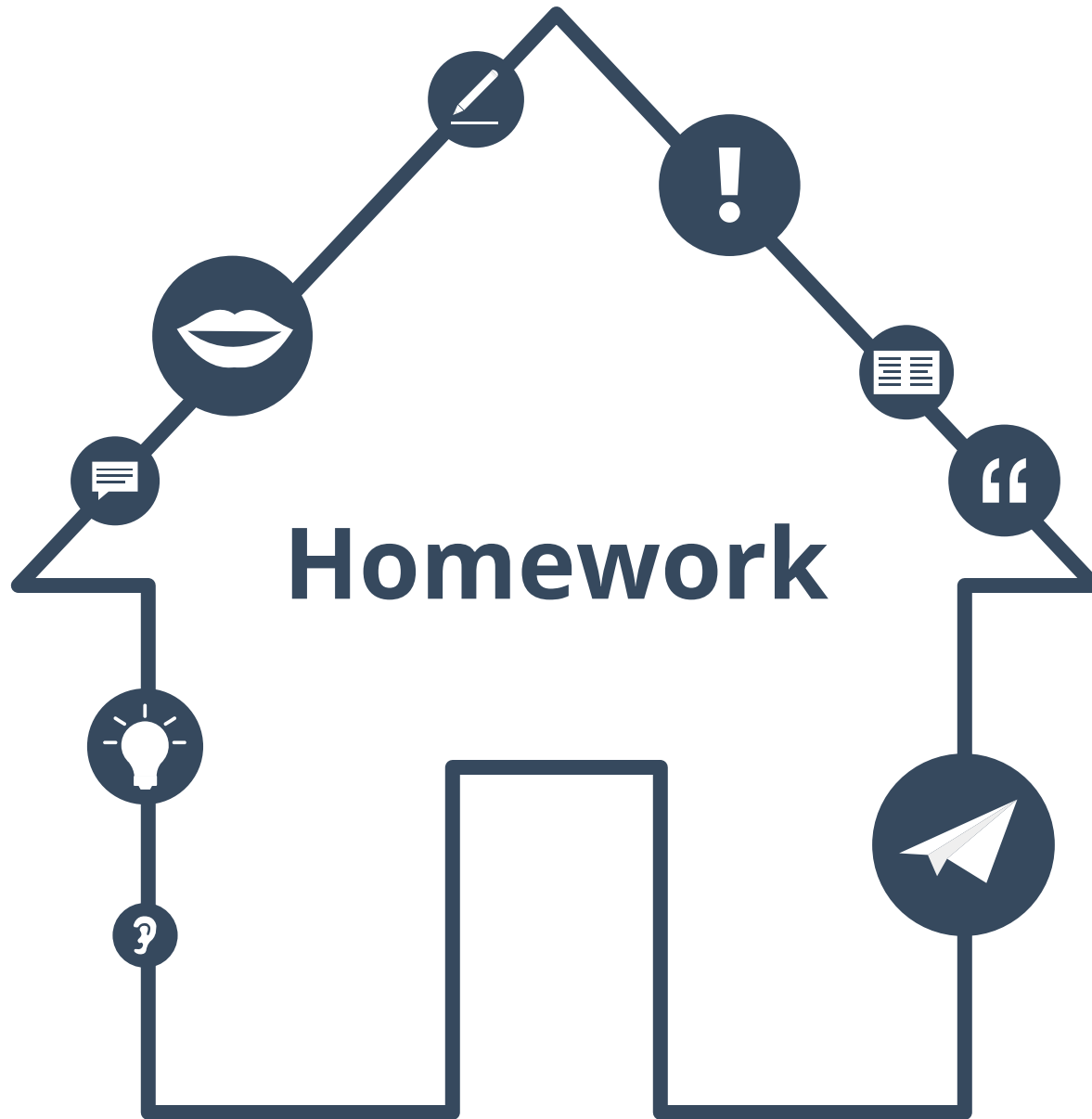
1. Correct, 2. Incorrect: A delicious,  
small, round, pink, French cupcake. 3.  
Incorrect: A beautiful, sleek, brand-new,  
bright red sports car. 4. Correct, 5. A  
large, old, red, Turkish, woollen carpet.  
6. Correct

### Exercise p. 16

The mistakes are below. Accept any  
good correction:  
sister elder, my awake sister, an ablaze  
room, the hole was little, my bereft  
sister

### Exercise p. 17

1. Attributive: big, brown. Predicative:  
asleep, 2. A: most recent, P: beautiful,  
overpriced, 3. A: gold, difficult, P: well-  
deserved, 4. A: fancy, P: expensive,  
delicious, 5. A: incumbent, P: present, 6.  
A: mere, P: terrifying





## Predicative or attributive?

safe

sleepy

little

ready

round

main

tired

green

amiss

ill

mere

afraid

predicative

---

---

---

both

---

---

---

attributive

---

---

---





## Add as many adjectives and adverbs to make these sentences more interesting

1. The gorilla was angry. He ran around his cage.
2. The man walked to the shop.
3. Tabitha was talking when Adam walked in.
4. Graham drank a juice.
5. Alexander built a house.





## Homework answer key

### **Exercise p. 32**

Predicative: safe, ready, amiss, ill, afraid  
Both: sleepy, round, tired, green  
Attributive: little, main, mere



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