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LICENCIATURA EN ENFERMERÍA

Adjectives

In which order?

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Adjetivos, ¿en qué orden?

Resumen

El presente trabajo intenta mostrar de una forma sencilla, información básica acerca del uso y el orden de los adjetivos en el idioma inglés. Esta presentación ha sido diseñada para ser utilizada como material adicional para el primer nivel de inglés en la Licenciatura en Enfermería en la Escuela Superior Huejutla, *Conversaciones Introdutorias. Lengua Extranjera*. Bajo la guía del Programa Institucional de Lenguas, PIL, de la Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo.

Palabras clave: adjetivos, orden de los adjetivos

Adjectives, in which order?

Abstract

The present work intends to present basic information about the use and order of Adjectives in the English language. This presentation has been designed to be used as additional material for the 1st level of English of Nursing Educational Program at Escuela Superior de Huejutla, Introductory Conversations. Foreign Language, under the guidance of the Institutional Program of Languages (Programa Institucional de Lenguas -PIL) of Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo.

Key words: adjectives, order of adjectives.

WHAT IS AN ADJECTIVE?

- *Adjectives* are words used to describe or to modify a person or a thing in a sentence.
- For example:
- A big house
- A nice class
- Some productive time
- The Cathedral
- A magnificent view

Where do Adjectives go in a sentence?

Let's see:

The **magnificent** castle is over 500 years old.

magnificent is the adjective, accompanying the noun *castle*

So, we see that the adjective is placed ***before*** the noun.

Adjectives nearly always go immediately **before** the noun they modify.

Examples:

- There is a **Nursing** School in Huejutla.
- The mosquito flew in **an erratic** pattern.
- Poinsettias are considered **Christmas'** flowers.

When the adjective modifies an indefinite pronoun, -someone, anyone, somebody, anybody- then, they appear after the pronoun.

Examples:

Anyone **caught** cheating in the exam, will fail.

Someone **that nice** shouldn't face such terrible times.

Something **amazing** is coming this way.

Sometimes, adjectives form part of a string of adjectives. Then they appear in a **specific order** according to their category.

Although there is a pattern, there are many exceptions to it. Nevertheless, it is important to learn the basics. Here there is a chart that presents the most accepted categorization for adjectives order.

The categories in the chart are:

1. ***Determiners***. Articles plus other limiters.

Like:

a, an, numbers (two, four), possessive adjectives (my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their), demonstratives (this, that, these, those), adjectives denoting quantity (several, many, a lot of, some).

2. *Observation.* Adjectives subject to a subjective measure.

Adjectives suggesting a personal perception of the speaker.

Examples:

Nice, horrible, amazing, ordinary, common, cheap, expensive, beautiful, ugly, disgusting, marvelous, extraordinary, delicious, plain, tasty, lovely.

3. ***Physical description.*** Adjectives subject to an objective measure.

Those adjectives referring to:

Size: big, little, enormous, tiny.

Shape: square, round, rectangular.

Age: new, young, old, antique, modern.

Color: white, red, pink, black, gray, green, blue, purple, orange.

4. ***Origin.*** These are denominal adjectives indicating source of noun.

Examples:

French, German, Italian, Mexican,
American, Australian, Indian.

5. ***Material.*** Denominal adjectives indicating what something is made of.

Examples:

Woolen, wooden, plastic, metallic, silk, gold, silver.

6. ***Qualifier.*** This is a final limiter, often considered as part of the noun.

Examples:

Baseball cap, soccer field, rocking chair, hunting cabin, residential area, warming clothes, swimming pool, spatial program.

The order of adjectives and some examples

The Order of Adjectives									
Determiner	Observation	Physical description				Origin	Material	Qualifier	Noun
		Size	Shape	Age	Color				
a		tiny		old		Irish			gnome
two	extraordinary				red		silk	cocktail	dresses
his		big			gray				moustache
that	disgusting			new					custom
some	delicious		round			Greek			desserts
several			rectangular	antique		Roman			tables
an	amazing				green		woolen	Christmas	sweater
those	lovely			old		Italian		love	songs

Although it is not advisable to put more than two or three adjectives together, when you use two of the same category, you may use a comma between them, instead of *and* or *but*.

For example:

Those **beautiful but unreachable** stars.

Those **beautiful, unreachable** stars.

We call these, *coordinated adjectives*.

When you use three coordinated adjectives, use a comma to separate them, but do not use a comma between the last adjective and the noun.

Example:

A wonderful, smart and lovely little girl.

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