

# English Ladder

Student Workbook

## Adjective Order in English

A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.



Grammar Concepts #10

Key Points

Additional Examples

### Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Adjective Order in English** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

**ENGLISH LADDER**

Concept #10 ► Adjective Order

Multiple adjectives assigned to a single noun follow the general order below. This reflects only the common ordering. There is some flexibility.

Determiner	Opinion	Size	Shape	Condition	Age	Color	Pattern	Origin	Material	Purpose	Noun
The	awful	small	round	broken	young	black	spotted	British	wooden	shopping	car
Eleven	beautiful	large	square	hungry	new	reddish	striped	Japanese	plastic	safety	class
My	nice	tiny	long	messy	old	yellow	plain	Mayan	gold	business	device

However, there is much flexibility in the order, especially for the categories in the middle. The best way to learn adjective order is to simply do much reading in English. The adjective order will eventually become natural to you.

**I have two odd, large, roundish, shiny, new, black & white, checked, French, leather, clown shoes.**

\* Note that commas are used between unrelated adjectives. The leather is not French leather, and the clowns are not leather clowns.

englishladder.com





## Core Idea

Understanding the order of adjectives is essential for non-native English speakers to construct grammatically correct sentences. The image outlines a general order that adjectives follow when describing a noun. While there is some flexibility, especially in the middle categories, adhering to this order can make your sentences sound more natural.

### Quick reference

The General Order of Adjectives	Determiner
Detailed Explanation with Examples	Determiner Words like the, a, an, my, this, that, these, those, some, every, each. Examples: The car My house An apple
Combining Multiple Adjectives	Two (determiner)

## Key Points

### The General Order of Adjectives

- Determiner
- Opinion
- Size
- Shape
- Condition
- Age
- Color
- Pattern
- Origin
- Material
- Purpose
- The Noun

### Detailed Explanation with Examples



- Determiner Words like the, a, an, my, this, that, these, those, some, every, each. Examples: The car My house An apple
- Opinion Words that express what you think about something, such as beautiful, nice, awful, amazing, ugly. Examples: A beautiful day An awful smell A nice gift
- Size Words describing the size, such as small, large, tiny, huge. Examples: A large room A tiny insect A small box
- Shape Words describing the shape, such as round, square, rectangular, oval. Examples: A round table A square garden A rectangular frame
- Condition Words describing the state or condition, such as broken, messy, clean, hungry, tired. Examples: A broken chair A messy desk A clean window
- Age Words describing age, such as young, old, new, ancient. Examples: An old tree A young boy A new car
- Color Words describing color, such as red, blue, green, yellow, black. Examples: A red apple A blue sky A green leaf
- Pattern Words describing patterns, such as striped, spotted, checked, plain. Examples: A striped shirt A spotted dress A checked tablecloth
- Origin Words describing the origin, such as American, British, Japanese, Indian. Examples: A British car A Japanese kimono An Indian curry
- Material Words describing the material, such as wooden, plastic, metal, cotton. Examples: A wooden chair A plastic bottle A metal gate
- Purpose Words describing the purpose, such as shopping, cleaning, cooking. Examples: A shopping bag A cleaning brush A cooking pot
- Noun The main noun that you are describing. Examples: The big, round, yellow ball A beautiful, old, wooden table My new, red, Japanese car

### Combining Multiple Adjectives

When using multiple adjectives to describe a single noun, follow the order mentioned above.

Example Sentence:

"I have two odd, large, roundish, shiny, new, black and white, checked, French, leather, clown shoes."

- Two (determiner)
- Odd (opinion)
- Large (size)
- Roundish (shape)
- Shiny (condition)
- New (age)



- Black and white (color)
- Checked (pattern)
- French (origin)
- Leather (material)
- Clown (purpose)
- Shoes (noun)

### Note on Flexibility

While the general order is a useful guide, there is some flexibility, especially with the middle categories. The best way to master adjective order is to read extensively in English. Over time, the correct order will start to feel more natural.

## Additional Examples

- A beautiful, large, round, ancient, Chinese, porcelain vase.
- An old, broken, blue, plastic, toy car.
- Some new, small, green, striped, cotton shirts.
- A charming, small, rectangular, vintage, French, wooden box.
- A delicious, large, round, fresh, red, Italian, tomato.
- My ugly, tiny, square, old, gray, cardboard, jewelry box.
- The scary, huge, oval, haunted, ancient, stone mansion.
- An interesting, small, square, new, green, glass ornament.
- His lovely, medium-sized, rectangular, antique, mahogany desk.
- A disgusting, tiny, round, moldy, blue, plastic container.
- A friendly, large, rectangular, young, brown, wooden doghouse.
- The annoying, small, round, old, red, rubber ball.
- An exciting, big, oval, modern, black, metal spaceship.
- A gorgeous, small, square, ancient, golden, Greek coin.
- An enormous, round, brand-new, black, Italian leather couch.
- The cute, small, oval, young, white, fluffy kitten.
- A noisy, large, rectangular, old, silver, steel factory.
- The sad, tiny, round, ancient, bronze, Roman amulet.
- A thrilling, medium-sized, square, futuristic, silver, metal robot.



- An elegant, large, oval, vintage, French, crystal chandelier.
- A dirty, small, rectangular, old, blue, plastic lunchbox.
- The beautiful, large, round, modern, red, Japanese fan.
- An ancient, tiny, oval, old, gold, Egyptian ring.
- A cheap, small, square, new, yellow, plastic toy.
- The luxurious, large, rectangular, old, mahogany, French dining table.
- A mysterious, medium-sized, round, ancient, green, stone artifact.
- An amusing, small, oval, new, pink, rubber ball.
- A magnificent, large, rectangular, modern, white, marble statue.
- The delightful, tiny, round, old, red, metal music box.
- A fantastic, small, square, futuristic, blue, steel gadget.

By practicing these patterns and reading more, you will become more comfortable with the natural order of adjectives in English.



## Practice Check

Order the adjective in the proper way explained in the section on the left.

### ITEM 01

I bought a \_\_\_\_\_ dress. (beautiful, blue, new)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 02

She has a \_\_\_\_\_ vase. (porcelain, ancient, Chinese)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 03

He found an \_\_\_\_\_ ring. (gold, Egyptian, ancient)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 04

They own a \_\_\_\_\_ car. (new, German, red, small)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 05

I have a \_\_\_\_\_ bag. (shopping, large, black)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 06

She wore a \_\_\_\_\_ shirt. (striped, cotton, blue)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 07

They live in a \_\_\_\_\_ house. (wooden, beautiful, large)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 08

He bought a \_\_\_\_\_ car. (fast, new, Italian)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 09

I saw a \_\_\_\_\_ butterfly. (small, colorful, beautiful)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 10

They adopted a \_\_\_\_\_ puppy. (cute, tiny, brown)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 11

He wore a \_\_\_\_\_ hat. (woolen, old, green)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 12

She has a \_\_\_\_\_ handbag. (leather, small, stylish)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 13

They bought a \_\_\_\_\_ table. (round, wooden, antique)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 14

He found a \_\_\_\_\_ coin. (ancient, golden, small)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 15

She wore a \_\_\_\_\_ dress. (red, beautiful, silk)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 16

I bought a \_\_\_\_\_ lamp. (modern, new, silver)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 17

He drives a \_\_\_\_\_ car. (fast, blue, sports)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 18

They live in a \_\_\_\_\_ apartment. (modern, spacious, city)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 19

I have a \_\_\_\_\_ jacket. (leather, stylish, black)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 20

She bought a \_\_\_\_\_ bag. (new, fashion, big)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 21

He has a \_\_\_\_\_ car. (red, sporty, small)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 22

They saw a \_\_\_\_\_ bird. (small, blue, tropical)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 23

I found a \_\_\_\_\_ box. (wooden, small, old)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 24

She has a \_\_\_\_\_ collection. (antique, valuable, large)

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

**ITEM 01**

I bought a beautiful, new, blue dress. (beautiful, blue, new)

**ITEM 02**

She has a beautiful, large, round, ancient, Chinese, porcelain vase. (porcelain, ancient, Chinese)

**ITEM 03**

He found an ancient, gold, Egyptian ring. (gold, Egyptian, ancient)

**ITEM 04**

They own a new, small, red, German car. (new, German, red, small)

**ITEM 05**

I have a large, black, shopping bag. (shopping, large, black)

**ITEM 06**

She wore a blue, striped, cotton shirt. (striped, cotton, blue)

**ITEM 07**

They live in a beautiful, large, wooden house. (wooden, beautiful, large)

**ITEM 08**

He bought a new, fast, Italian car. (fast, new, Italian)

**ITEM 09**

I saw a beautiful, small, colorful butterfly. (small, colorful, beautiful)

**ITEM 10**

They adopted a cute, tiny, brown puppy. (cute, tiny, brown)

**ITEM 11**

He wore a old, green, woolen hat. (woolen, old, green)

**ITEM 12**

She has a stylish, small, leather handbag. (leather, small, stylish)

**ITEM 13**

They bought a antique, round, wooden table. (round, wooden, antique)

**ITEM 14**

He found a small, ancient, golden coin. (ancient, golden, small)



ITEM 15

She wore a beautiful, red, silk dress. (red, beautiful, silk)

ITEM 16

I bought a new, modern, silver lamp. (modern, new, silver)

ITEM 17

He drives a fast, blue, sports car. (fast, blue, sports)

ITEM 18

They live in a spacious, modern, city apartment. (modern, spacious, city)

ITEM 19

I have a stylish, black, leather jacket. (leather, stylish, black)

ITEM 20

She bought a big, new, fashion bag. (new, fashion, big)

ITEM 21

He has a sporty, small, red car. (red, sporty, small)

ITEM 22

They saw a small, blue, tropical bird. (small, blue, tropical)

ITEM 23

I found a small, old, wooden box. (wooden, small, old)

ITEM 24

She has a large, valuable, antique collection. (antique, valuable, large)