

HOW TO TEACH ADJECTIVES AND THEIR ORDER IN SENTENCES

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Abstract

Adjectives give more information about nouns, such as size, color, age, opinion, and purpose. Using adjectives in the correct order is important for clear and natural English. This article discusses the types of adjectives, the usual order in sentences, and strategies to teach them effectively. It also explains how contextual learning, visual aids, writing and speaking activities, and collaborative exercises can improve learners' writing and communication skills.

Keywords

Order, Writing Skills, Sentence Structure, Communication Skills, Vocabulary

Introduction

Adjectives are important in English because they make sentences detailed and interesting. When learners use more than one adjective before a noun, English has a specific order that sounds natural. Teaching adjectives in context not only improves grammar but also helps learners communicate more clearly and expand their vocabulary. This article presents effective strategies for teaching adjectives, their types, and their order to help learners develop stronger writing and speaking skills.

Types of Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns and tell us about:

- Opinion: what someone thinks (e.g., beautiful, boring)
- Size: how big or small (e.g., big, tiny)
- Age: how old (e.g., young, old)
- Shape: the shape (e.g., round, square)
- Color: the color (e.g., red, blue)
- Origin: where something comes from (e.g., French, Indian)
- Material: what it is made of (e.g., wooden, cotton)
- Purpose: the use or function (e.g., cooking pot, sleeping bag)

Order of Adjectives

When using multiple adjectives before a noun, the typical order is:

Opinion – Size – Age – Shape – Color – Origin – Material – Purpose – Noun

Examples:

- A beautiful small old round red Italian wooden table.
- She bought a lovely large new square black French leather bag.

Teaching Strategies to Improve Writing and Communication Skills

Effective teaching of adjectives requires combining explanation with meaningful practice:

- **Contextual Sentences:** Use adjectives in meaningful sentences rather than isolated lists.
Example: She has a small old brown house.

- **Visual Aids:** Use pictures, videos, or real-life objects to help learners describe nouns accurately.
- **Writing Exercises:** Students write paragraphs or short stories using multiple adjectives in correct order.
- **Peer Review:** Students check each other's work for correct adjective use and order.
- **Collaborative Activities:** Group storytelling or role-plays encourage learners to use adjectives naturally in communication.
- **Descriptive Tasks:** Ask students to describe classrooms, homes, or favorite places to practice real-life language.

These strategies help learners internalize adjective usage and improve both writing and speaking skills.

Conclusion

Adjectives are essential for making English sentences clear and interesting. Teaching the correct order of adjectives improves sentence structure, writing, and communication skills. Contextual learning, visual support, writing tasks, collaborative activities, and descriptive exercises are effective methods to help learners use adjectives naturally. These approaches increase learners' confidence, accuracy, and ability to communicate effectively in English.

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