



## Unit 48 – Adjective Position (*She is a true friend.. I was awake all night..*)

A) An adjective is a modifier that describes a noun or pronoun. It is placed in one of three positions in a sentence:

- i) Attributive position (before a noun) → It was a **great** game last night! ('great' pre-modifies 'game')
- ii) Postpositive position (after a noun) → There are still tickets **available**. ('available' post-modifies 'tickets')
- iii) Predicative position (in the predicate) → He looked **sad**. ('sad' modifies 'he' via the linking verb 'looked')

→ Predicate adjectives modify the subject through a linking verb such as **appear, be, become, feel, get and seem**.

**Note:** → Postpositive adjectives are not as common and are often used to post-modify indefinite pronouns because of the fact that pronouns cannot be pre-modified.

B) Some adjectives can only be used in one position *or* the other; either before a noun or after a linking verb:

→ Adjectives normally only used before a noun:

i) Numbers and **first, next, last** – the usual order is **first/next + number + adjective + noun**:

→ A circus is in town for the **next three** days.

ii) Some adjectives of degree – these emphasizing adjectives include **absolute, complete, perfect, proper, pure, real, sheer, true, utter**: → That story is a **complete** lie. not: *That lie is complete.*

→ Jenny has always been a **true** friend. not: *My friend Jenny is true.*

iii) Some adjectives of time & order – **early, former, latter, old, present, and future** are used before the noun only:

→ Tom is an **old** friend of mine. not: *My friend Tom is old.*

iv) Some adjectives that limit the following noun – **certain, chief, main, major, only, particular, principle, sole, very**

→ Vaccine hesitancy was the **main** reason why the corona virus continued to spread.

→ Adjectives normally only used after a linking verb:

i) Adjectives with a prefix **a-** are used after linking verbs. Common examples include: **afloat, ablaze** (*on fire*), **awake, alive, asleep, aboard** (*on a plane, boat, bus or train*): → I was **awake** the entire flight to London.

**Note:** → to express a similar meaning with an adjective in front of the noun, there are related adjectives. Compare:

→ They are still finding **live children** in the wreckage. → The children found **were alive** in the wreckage.

→ There was a **blazing fire** in the forest nearby. → The nearby forest **was ablaze** this afternoon.

ii) Some adjectives referring to feelings and states of health – **content, fine, glad, ill, upset, unwell, well**:

→ Sean is **unwell** at the moment. We were **content** to stay inside with the rainy weather.

**Tip:** → some of these adjectives above can be used *before* a noun. For example: *He was a terminally ill patient.*

C) Functions of Adjectives – there are two main uses of adjectives: they are for either i) describing or ii) classifying:

i) Describing or *Qualitative* – used to describe the quality of a noun by answering, 'What is X like?'

→ It was **gorgeous** weather at the beach today. *or:* The weather was **gorgeous** at the beach today.

**Note:** → Qualitative adjectives can be **common** (the *hilarious* comedian) or **proper** (the *British* comedian)

ii) Classifying – used to indicate quantity, number or a limit to the noun it modifies by answering 'What type is X?'

→ **Several** astronauts completed the first spacewalk outside of the new space station today.

D) Certain adjectives are used directly after a noun at the beginning of a reduced relative clause:

i) adjectives used before a 'to-infinitive' or a prepositional phrase that are part of an adjective phrase:

→ The CEO created a strategy (that is) **planned to double** sales in the following two years.

→ Messi is a star (who is) **capable of scoring** clutch goals in big games.

ii) some (*-ible* and *-able*) adjectives such as **available, imaginable, possible, or suitable**:

→ It was the only **option available** to us at the time.

→ That house has the most spectacular **views imaginable**.

**Note:** → the nouns in the above examples are preceded by **the**: (*the only option..*)

iii) the adjectives **concerned, involved, opposite, present, proper, or responsible** take a slightly different meaning before a noun: → Ultimately, it was the CEO **responsible** for the decision.

→ We're fortunate to have such a **responsible leader** of our company.



## Unit 48 – Exercises:

48.1 – Underline the adjectives. Then determine whether they are **attributive** or **predicative**. (48-A)

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Your grandfather was a <u>well-respected</u> member of the community. | <b>Attributive</b> / Predicative |
| 2. <i>The Phantom the Opera</i> is both comical and tragic.              | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 3. Jonathan suffered cracked ribs in the fall from the horse.            | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 4. Bicycling and scooters are inexpensive ways to get around the city.   | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 5. The storm has passed. There is nothing to be afraid of now.           | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 6. People say my brother and I look alike.                               | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 7. A strange thing happened to me on my way to work this morning.        | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 8. <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> is one of my favorite movies.         | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 9. People were astonished to find the girl alive in the rubble.          | Attributive / Predicative        |
| 10. Melissa felt quite nervous before the interview.                     | Attributive / Predicative        |

48.2 – Complete each pair of sentences with the following word-pairs in the box. (48-B)

**afraid / frightened** / **alike / similar** / **lonely / lone** / **(ill / ill)** **(asleep / sleeping)** / **(alive / living)** / **(upset / upset)**

- Bill's not **afraid** to express his opinions. / The \_\_\_\_\_ dog slowly backed away from us.
- Gary felt very \_\_\_\_\_ after going away to school. / The \_\_\_\_\_ survivor of the accident was four-year-old girl.
- You're very lucky to be \_\_\_\_\_ after that accident! / Sunshine and water are beneficial to \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- It is common in Asia to see couples who dress \_\_\_\_\_. / My father and I have \_\_\_\_\_ views on politics.
- Cynthia was \_\_\_\_\_ on the sofa when I got home. / The sound of broken glass aroused the \_\_\_\_\_ guard.
- He left the room quietly and I knew he was \_\_\_\_\_. / She's been off work this week with an \_\_\_\_\_ stomach.
- The flu's been going around and I've felt \_\_\_\_\_ all day. / The critically \_\_\_\_\_ patient was transferred to the E.R. by air.

48.3 – Complete with the adjectives **flexible, sustainable, valuable, accessible, preventable, questionable**. (48-D)

- This is the only building with an entrance \_\_\_\_\_ by wheelchair.
- Business owners want to succeed in keeping their business \_\_\_\_\_ for as long as possible.
- The M.V.P. award is given to the player most \_\_\_\_\_ to his team across the league.
- From the very beginning, it was a policy \_\_\_\_\_ in the minds of most employees.
- The mandate of the company is to create a product \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the needs of its clients.
- The inquiry sought to ask the question, 'Was the accident \_\_\_\_\_?'

48.4 – Complete the following **reduced relative clauses** with the adjectives in the box below:

**proud, responsible, motivated, willing, improve, anxious, involved**. (48-D)

- This is John Stevens. He's the director \_\_\_\_\_ for launching our brand overseas.
- The mayor praised the people \_\_\_\_\_ in the rescue efforts.
- Usain Bolt was a sprinter \_\_\_\_\_ to run the fastest 100 meter race in history.
- You could easily tell he was a dad \_\_\_\_\_ of his son's accomplishments.
- Sandra is definitely a person \_\_\_\_\_ to work hard for the company.
- It is a decision likely to \_\_\_\_\_ the company's sales next quarter.
- He was a boy \_\_\_\_\_ about his first day of classes in high school.

48.5 – Write the word in brackets in the more appropriate space, either before or after the noun. (48-D)

- At our restaurant, the chefs use only the freshest \_\_\_\_\_ produce **available**. (*available*)
- The new regulations will be of benefit to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone \_\_\_\_\_. (*concerned*)
- How do you explain the \_\_\_\_\_ discrepancies \_\_\_\_\_ between the money and receipts? (*apparent*)
- It is important to follow the \_\_\_\_\_ procedures \_\_\_\_\_ when dealing with complaints. (*proper*)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ government \_\_\_\_\_ shouldn't waste taxpayers' money. (*responsible*)
- My parents have \_\_\_\_\_ views \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue of private education. (*opposite*)