#### **ADJECTIVES**

Adjectives are words which modify nouns and pronouns.

## **CATEGORIES OF ADJECTIVES**

Perception - beautiful, ugly, easy, difficult, interesting

Size - small, tall, short, big

Age - young, old, new, ancient, classic

Shape - round, oval, square, rectangular

Color - blue, green, yellow, pink, purple, red

Nationality - American, Japanese, Canadian

Material - metallic, plastic, wooden, glass, paper

Purpose/Qualification -- foldout, intake, fishing (e.g. fishing boat)

### Examples:

The beautiful, Japanese dress was wonderful.

The green, rectangular box contained potpourri.

The blue sea is beautiful.

The long folding table is very useful for parties.

### STACKING ADJECTIVES

Adjectives can be stacked together to help to make more specific the sensory and physical properties of the noun.

# Example:

green, seven-day-old, moldy tortilla the two-hundred year-old house this stupid-ridiculous-crappy exam

Adjectives (when stacked) are specifically ordered by the following elements:

- 1. Quantity or number
- 2. Quality or opinion
- 3. Size
- 4. Age
- 5. Shape
- 6. Color
- 7. Nationality or place of origin or material (Proper Adjective)
- 8. Purpose or qualifier

#### Example:

ten new large ten-year-old rectangular blue Parisian edible candies

# ABSOLUTES, COMPARATIVE, AND SUPERLATIVES

Adjectives may be used to show comparison and superlatives (things to their greatest extent).

Examples:

Absolute Comparative Superlative

Good Better Best
Bad Worse Worst
Large Larger Largest

Small Smaller Smallest

The Absolute is the form of the adjective which has no comparison.

Example:

Jimmy is a strong guy.

Comparatives are used to compare two items.

Example:

Jimmy is stronger than I am.

Superlatives are used when you are comparing more than two items (i.e., three or more); moreover, they are the forms of adjectives which often represent the "greatest" extent/potential of a modifier.

Example:

Jimmy is the strongest person that I know.

#### SYLLABLES AND COMPARATIVES

Generally, superlatives follow some patterns of language.

When an adjective has one syllable, the letters –ER are added.

Example:

Large => Larger

When an adjective has two syllables, the letters –ER are added or (depending on usage) the word MORE is added.

Example:

Easy => Easier -or- Stressful => More Stressful

When an adjective has more than three syllables, the word MORE is added in front of the adjective.

Example:

Difficult => More Difficult

### SYLLABLES AND SUPERLATIVES

Generally, superlatives follow some patterns of language.

When an adjective has one syllable, the letters –EST are added.

Example:

Large => Largest

When an adjective has two syllables, the letters –EST are added or (depending on usage) the word MOST is added.

Example:

Easy => Easiest -or- Stressful => Most Stressful

When an adjective has more than three syllables, the word MOST is added in front of the adjective/superlative.

Example:

Beautiful => Most Beautiful

# HYPHENATED ADJECTIVES (OR COMPOUND ADJECTIVES)

Adjectives may appear are hyphenates. Typically, these hyphenated adjectives (or compound adjectives) use the hyphen to join them together.

Example:

left-handed hitter two-year-old toddler six-page document

Oftentimes, hyphens are used when the reader is meant to put both words together.

Example: (CONTRASTED)

Please prepare a six-page report for your professor. Please prepare a six page report for your professor.

### ADJECTIVE PHRASES

#### **DEFINITION**

An adjective phrase is a group of words connected to the adjective.

Typically, the adjective is placed in front of the word it modifies:

Example:

She is very beautiful.

Very = adverb

Beautiful = adjective

Other times, the words are placed after the adjective to modify it much in the same way.

Example:

The dog is dry enough to put in the car.

Dry= adjective

Enough= adverb