

Grammar Reference

Position 1 — adjective before the noun

In English, adjectives go **before** the noun they describe.

adjective + noun

✓ *a **big** dog* | *a **red** car* | *an **old** man*

✗ *a dog **big*** | *a car **red*** (wrong — adjective after noun)

Position 2 — adjective after "be"

Subject + be + adjective

✓ *The dog **is big**.* | *She **is happy**.* | *The soup **is hot**.*

Order of two or more adjectives

When you use more than one adjective, they follow this order:

Opinion → Size → Age → Colour → Material → Noun

✓ *a **beautiful old** house* | *a **small red** bag* | *a **big wooden** table*

✗ *an old beautiful house* | *a red small bag* (wrong order)

Type	Examples
Opinion	nice, lovely, beautiful, horrible, boring
Size	big, small, large, tiny, long, short
Age	old, new, young, ancient
Colour	red, blue, green, black, white, yellow
Material	wooden, plastic, metal, leather, cotton

■ **Remember:** Use *an* (not *a*) when the adjective starts with a vowel sound: *an old car, an interesting book, an ugly hat.*

Exercise 1: Word Order

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

Question 1

black dog . big She has a

Answer: She has a big black dog.

Question 2

. beautiful is This a house old

Answer: This is a beautiful old house.

Question 3

He wears . jacket leather a brown

Answer: He wears a brown leather jacket.

Question 4

The is . soup cold

Answer: The soup is cold.

Question 5

I bag red small have . a

Answer: I have a small red bag.

Question 6

children are The . tired very

Answer: The children are very tired.

Question 7

It . interesting is an book

Answer: It is an interesting book.

Question 8

table old They . wooden bought an

Answer: They bought an old wooden table.

Exercise 2: Sentence Builder

Circle the sentence with the correct adjective order.

Question 1

Which sentence is correct?

- a) She has a black big dog.
- b) She has a big black dog. ✓**
- c) She has a dog big black.

Question 2

Choose the correct sentence:

- a) It is a beautiful old house. ✓**
- b) It is an old beautiful house.
- c) It is a house beautiful old.

Question 3

Which noun phrase is correct?

- a) a red small bag
- b) a small red bag ✓**
- c) a bag small red

Question 4

Choose the correct sentence:

- a) He bought wooden old an table.
- b) He bought an old wooden table. ✓**
- c) He bought an wooden old table.

Question 5

Which sentence is correct?

- a) The soup is cold. ✓
- b) The cold is soup.
- c) Cold the soup is.

Question 6

Choose the correct noun phrase:

- a) a nice big blue bird ✓
- b) a big nice blue bird
- c) a blue big nice bird

Question 7

Which is correct?

- a) She wears a dress long green.
- b) She wears a long green dress. ✓
- c) She wears a green long dress.

Question 8

Choose the correct sentence:

- a) It is an interesting book. ✓
- b) It is a interesting book.
- c) It is a book interesting.

Exercise 3: Error Correction

Each sentence has one word in the wrong place. Circle it and write the correction.

Question 1

She has a black ~~big~~ dog. → move "big" before "black": a big black dog

Question 2

He has an old ~~nice~~ bike. → move "nice" before "old": a nice old bike

Question 3

It is ~~a~~ interesting book. → "a" → "an" before a vowel sound

Question 4

They bought a wooden ~~old~~ chair. → move "old" before "wooden": an old wooden chair

Question 5

She wears a long dress ~~green~~. → move "green" before "dress": a long green dress

Question 6

The cat is ~~small~~ very. → move "small" after "very": very small

Question 7

I want a red ~~small~~ bag. → move "small" before "red": a small red bag

Exercise 4: Gap Fill

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

Question 1

She has a white cat.

Question 2

It is a beautiful old house.

Question 3

He wears a black leather jacket.

Question 4

They have a big wooden table.

Question 5

It is an interesting book.

Question 6

The children are very tired.

Question 7

She carries a small red bag.

Question 8

The soup is hot.

Exercise 5: Matching

Match each sentence beginning (1–8) with the correct ending (a–h).

Sentence beginning	Ending
1. She has → a	a) a beautiful old building.
2. It is → b	b) a small white cat.
3. He bought → c	c) a long red dress.
4. The coffee is → d	d) a nice new apartment.
5. They live in → e	e) an old blue car.
6. She wears → f	f) tired and hungry.
7. The children are → g	g) a big brown leather sofa.
8. He drives → h	h) very hot.

Key: 1 → a 2 → b 3 → c 4 → d 5 → e 6 → f 7 → g 8 → h

Exercise 6: Sentence Sort

Write **B** (adjective before noun) or **A** (adjective after "be") next to each sentence.

1. She drives an old green car. [**B**]
2. He wears a long blue coat. [**B**]
3. The soup is hot. [**A**]
4. The film is very boring. [**A**]

5. I have a small red bag. [B]
 6. The children are tired. [A]
 7. They bought a nice wooden table. [B]
 8. The weather is beautiful today. [A]
 9. The coffee is very cold. [A]
 10. She has a big black dog. [B]
-

Exercise 7: Spot the Extra Word

One word in each sentence does not belong. Circle it and write it on the line.

Question 1

She has a big ~~very~~ black dog . → extra word: **very**

Question 2

It is a ~~an~~ beautiful old house . → extra word: **an**

Question 3

He wears a brown ~~colour~~ leather jacket . → extra word: **colour**

Question 4

The soup is very ~~hotly~~ . → extra word: **hotly**

Question 5

I have a small ~~little~~ red bag . → extra word: **little**

Question 6

She drives an old green ~~colour~~ car . → extra word: **colour**

Question 7

They bought a nice new ~~newly~~ apartment . → extra word: **newly**

ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Exercise 1: Word Order

1. She has a big black dog.
2. This is a beautiful old house.
3. He wears a brown leather jacket.
4. The soup is cold.
5. I have a small red bag.
6. The children are very tired.
7. It is an interesting book.
8. They bought an old wooden table.

Exercise 2: Sentence Builder

1. b) She has a big black dog.
2. a) It is a beautiful old house.
3. b) a small red bag
4. b) He bought an old wooden table.
5. a) The soup is cold.
6. a) a nice big blue bird
7. b) She wears a long green dress.
8. a) It is an interesting book.

Exercise 3: Error Correction

1. big → move before "black": a big black dog
2. nice → move before "old": a nice old bike
3. "a" → "an" before vowel sound
4. old → move before "wooden": an old wooden chair
5. green → move before "dress": a long green dress
6. small → move after "very": very small
7. small → move before "red": a small red bag

Exercise 4: Gap Fill

1. white
2. beautiful
3. black
4. big
5. an
6. tired
7. small red
8. hot

Exercise 6: Sentence Sort

1. She has a big black dog. [B]
2. The soup is hot. [A]
3. He wears a long blue coat. [B]
4. The children are tired. [A]
5. They bought a nice wooden table. [B]
6. The coffee is very cold. [A]
7. I have a small red bag. [B]
8. The weather is beautiful today. [A]
9. She drives an old green car. [B]
10. The film is very boring. [A]

Exercise 7: Extra Word

1. very
2. an
3. colour
4. hotly
5. little
6. colour
7. newly