

English Grammar

English Adjectives Fact or Opinion



“Richard just bought an **cool red** car. I’m jealous!”



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When we combine fact and opinion adjectives in front of a noun, we put the **opinion** adjective first and the **fact** adjective second.



Grammar BASICS



In English, we use adjectives to describe nouns. The adjective we use can be a **FACT** (red) or an **OPINION** (cool).

- A **fact** is - a thing that is known to be true, especially when it can be proved
- An **opinion** is - your feelings or thoughts about somebody/something, rather than a fact

When we combine fact and opinion adjectives in front of a noun, we put the **opinion** adjective first and the **fact** adjective second.

Fact adjectives

Remember a fact adjective is a thing that known to be true. DEFINITION Things that most people understand and accept.

Things like:

Fact adjectives - Color

“I’m wearing a **yellow** shirt.”

The adjective yellow is a fact. People understand and agree on what the color yellow means.



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“The sky is **blue** today.”
The adjective blue is a fact.

Patterns

Patterns are also fact adjectives. People understand and agree on what a pattern represents.



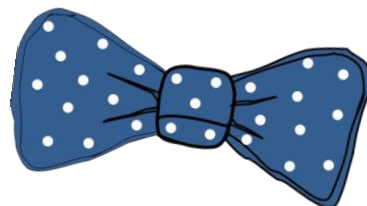
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“Candice is wearing a blue and white **striped** shirt.”

The adjective **striped** is understood by everyone to mean a pattern of long narrow lines of color that are different than the areas next to it.

“Mark is wearing a **polka-dot** tie today.”

This means a tie with many small round marks that together form a pattern.



Other pattern words in English

checked

printed or woven in a pattern of squares

checkered

a checkered pattern or design consists of squares in two or more different colors.

*Checked and checkered are often used to describe the same pattern.

criss-cross

consisting of straight lines that cross one another

matching

with the same color, pattern, or design

monochrome

using different shades of a single color

spotted

decorated or covered with a pattern of spots.
Very similar to polka-dot.



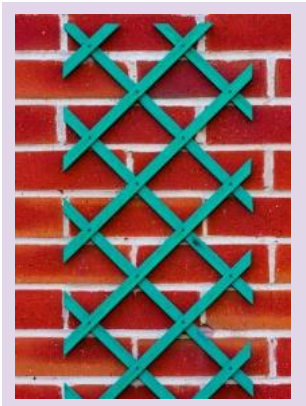
English pattern word images

A race
finishes
with a
checkered
flag.



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The green
wood is in a
criss-cross
pattern.



The girls
are
wearing
matching
outfits.



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This photo is
blue
monochrome.
It uses only
different
shades of blue.



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The
leopard is a
spotted
cat.



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Fact adjectives - Age

“Christian is **37 years** old.”

Christian’s age is a fact.

“I just bought a **1972** Chevy Impala.”

This car was made in 1972, this is NOT my opinion.

Fact adjectives - Origin

(where someone/something is from)

“**French** food is my favorite.”

In this sentence, the adjective French tells us where my favorite is from. This is a fact.

“My English teacher is **Canadian**.”

“I really enjoy **Brazilian** music.”



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Fact adjectives - Shape

“These sunglasses are **round**.”

People understand and agree on what the shape round means.

“This watch has a **square** bezel.”

bezel [noun] a ring with a long narrow cut around the inside, used to hold something in place, such as the cover of a watch or mobile phone

<http://english.oxforddictionaries.com/bezel>



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The bezel of this watch is **square**.



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Shapes as adjectives

Here are some basic shape nouns and their adjective forms.

(Click the adjective to hear the correct pronunciation)

square - [square](#)

triangle - [triangular](#)

circle - [round/circular](#)

rectangle - [rectangular](#)



A **square** table.



The top of the window is **round**.



The **triangular** sign marks the bike path.



A **rectangular** picture frame.

Opinion adjectives

Remember an opinion adjective is your feelings or thoughts about somebody/something, rather than a fact.

DEFINITION

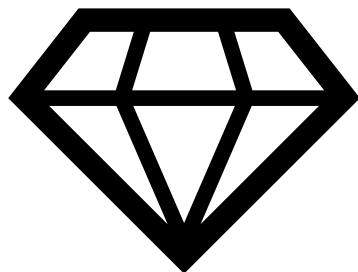
Opinion adjectives are relative to each person. Things like:

Opinion adjectives - Size

“A **big** dog lives next door.”

“This cafe is **tiny**.”

“Lisa’s engagement ring has a **huge** diamond!”



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion

We might feel like adjectives that describe the **size** of something are facts. Remember people can have different ideas of adjectives like **big** and **small** or **tall** and **short** for example.

Adjectives like this can be relative.

Relative means that the word has a different meaning or a different level depending on how you compare it.

In Alaska 14°C is warm.

14°C



In Salvador 14°C is cool.

Each person may have a **different point of comparison** or a **different experience** to compare it to.

Alaska is usually cold but Salvador is usually hot. The words **warm** and **cool** are relative to people in those places.



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion

So The meaning of adjectives like **tall** and **short** can be related to, or “relative” to each person.

“William is 165cm tall.”

An exact measurement, of course, is a fact.

Larry is 138cm tall and **Jesse** is 206cm tall.
Larry might think that **William** is tall but **Jesse** thinks that **William** is short.



Size comparison is often used in comparison to other things in general.

This means if we think of William’s height (165cm) compared to other people in general, he is **average**. In that same general comparison, Larry is **short** (in general) and Jesse is **tall** (in general).



Learn more about English comparison grammar [HERE](#)

Opinion adjectives – Cool, Awesome, Terrible etc.

“Those sunglasses are **cool**.”
They are cool to me. This is my opinion.

“I like Jason Mamoia, I think he’s **cool**.”

“This restaurant is **terrible**.”
I think it's terrible, but someone else might like it.

“I drove downtown last night. Parking downtown is **terrible** on the weekend!”

“That car is **awesome**.”
This is my opinion, it's my feeling. Someone else's feeling might be different.



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion

“The movie was **awesome!** I can’t wait to buy it on DVD!”

Common adjectives like **pretty\ugly** or **good\bad** are opinions.

English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion GRAMMAR

It’s common in English conversation to use combinations of adjectives.

When we combine fact and opinion adjectives in front of a noun, we will put the **opinion adjective first** and the **fact adjective second**.

“Richard just bought an **awesome red** car. I’m jealous!”

Awesome is an *opinion adjective* so it is used first in our sentence. **Red** is a *fact adjective* so it is used second.



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion

“There is a **terrible new** restaurant on Main street, I don’t recommend it.”

Terrible is an *opinion*, **new** is a *fact*.

“I saw some **cool round** sunglasses at the mall yesterday. They were \$300.00!”

Cool is an *opinion*, **round** is a *fact*.



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The concert was amazing! The band puts on a **great live** show!

Great is an *opinion*, **live** is a *fact*.



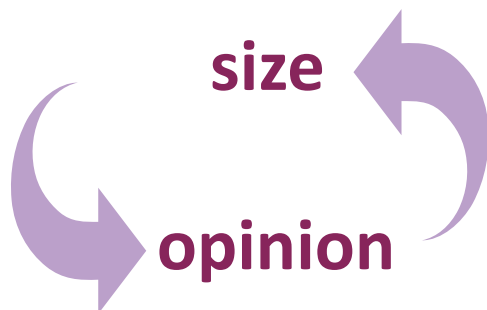
This is the usual order we use adjectives in English.

- **Amount or number** (Numbers come first even though they are facts)
- **Opinion**
- **Size** (opinions are relative – everyone is different)
- **Age** (fact)
- **Shape / texture** (fact)
- **Color** (fact)

“There were **3 cute little furry black** puppies in the park today.”

This order is correct... **BUT**

As a lifelong native English speaker, I can tell you from experience that there is an exception with the order of **size** and **opinion** adjectives.



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion

When we use the size adjectives like big, huge, etc., *especially with negative adjectives of opinion*, the order changes.

Here are two common exceptions.

“I saw a **big ugly** spider in the basement.”
In this sentence **size** comes before **opinion**.

BIG and UGLY are often used like this. LITTLE and UGLY are not used in this order.

“My aunt had an **ugly little** dog named Pedro. I don’t know why she liked him so much.”

These sentences don’t follow the same pattern, but they are both natural to my native ear!



“There was a **huge ugly** rat in my uncle’s garage. It was scary.”



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion

Sometimes with **size** and positive adjectives of **opinion** too.

“When I lived in Canada, my neighbor had a **big beautiful** golden retriever. That dog was so smart!”

I hope you never see any **big ugly** things so you never have to use this grammar!

Can you think of other exceptions to this rule?



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The dog was very friendly too. I miss him.



English Adjectives - Fact or Opinion



“That girl has **beautiful green** eyes.”



“Michelle is wearing a **big red** hat today, you can't miss her!”

Remember, opinion and size adjectives come before color.



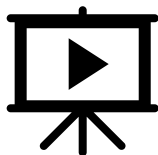
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