

Lesson 31

Parts of Speech - Adjectives

Adjectives, another part of speech, give us a great deal of terminology. I will share it with you, but all that is really important is that adjectives modify or affect the meaning of **nouns** and **pronouns** and tell us *which*, *whose*, *what kind*, and *how many* about the nouns or pronouns they modify. They generally come before the noun or pronoun they modify, but there are exceptions to that rule. How and why they are different will be explained in later lessons. They still tell us *which*, *whose*, *what kind*, and *how many*.

There are seven (7) words in the English language that are always adjectives. They are the **articles** *a*, *an*, and *the* and the **possessives** *my*, *our*, *your*, and *their*. (The possessives are from the possessive pronoun list but are always used with nouns as adjectives.) Being only seven in number, one should memorize them so they are immediately recognized as adjectives.

Examples:

The neighbor girl likes **chocolate** ice cream.

Mr. Johanson is **tall**, **dark**, and **handsome**.

Some authorities like to distinguish between what they call *true adjectives* and *determiners*, but both still just tell *which*, *whose*, *what kind*, and *how many*. Those words are the key to adjectives and should be memorized to make adjectives easy.

Instructions: Pick out the **adjectives** in the following sentences.

1. The heavy, red dress of Queen Elizabeth weighed over fifty pounds.
2. My sister chose two shirts for my graduation present.
3. That small Mexican restaurant in the next block serves fresh meals.
4. The little black dog barked at the well-dressed stranger.
5. An old wood fence had caught several discarded candy wrappers.