

## Describing with Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or modify nouns or pronouns. Sensory adjectives help the reader see, hear, feel, smell, and taste what writers are describing. (Also see pages 732 and 734.)

### Without Adjectives

Leroy dived into the water. He swam along the lane markers to the end of the pool. His coach held up a stopwatch.

### With Adjectives

Leroy dived into the cold, blue water. He swam along the red, white, and blue lane markers to the end of the Olympic-sized pool. His cheering coach held up an oversized stopwatch.

Adjectives answer three questions: *what kind?* *how many (much)?* or *which one?* Remember: Proper adjectives can be made from proper nouns (England, *English*; Italy, *Italian*) and are capitalized.

What Kind?	French bread	sour lemon	black cat
How Many (Much)?	two puppies	few friends	some milk
Which One?	this chair	these students	those caps



For each blank in the sentences below, write an adjective of the type called for in parentheses.

- There are (how many?) students on the swim team.
- Marla just got a (what kind?) swimsuit.
- She has swum on the team for (how many?) years.
- Marla always swallowed (how much?) water during practice.
- Last year, she injured her (which one?) elbow during a race.
- During the conference meet, Marla's relay team won a (what kind?) medal.
- Altogether, Marla won (how many?) medals during the meet.
- The (which one?) meet was the highlight of last season.
- This year's (what kind?) swim team will be as good as last year's.
- Marla accepts (how much?) responsibility for her performances.

## Comparative and Superlative

You can use comparative and superlative adjectives to compare two or more things, add *er* or *est* to the end of the adjective.

### Positive

large

Comparative: larger

Superlative: largest

Add *er* and *est* to the end of the adjective (at least) with others. Always use *er* and *est* with others.

### Positive

joyful

Comparative: joyfurther

Superlative: joyfurthermost

**NOTE** Some adjectives are irregular. For example, *bad*, *worse*, and *best*.



Write the positive, comparative, and superlative form of the adjective to the right.

- You will see a            tree is a            is a jai-a-lai tree.
- The soccer game was difficult to win.
- Student athletes are            students the           .
- While Arnie was            and Takeo was           .
- For a few years, the team was            players, the team was            are those who play the game.