ADJECTIVES AS A WORD CLASS

B2 — Upper-Intermediate

English Grammar Worksheets | Types of Adjectives • Attributive & Predicative Use • Order of Adjectives

4 Worksheets: Gradability & Classification • Position & Restrictions • Order & Compounds • Analysis & Writing | Answer Key Included

Worksheet 1: Gradable, Non-Gradable and Classifying Adjectives

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference

Category	Notes	Examples
Gradable (qualitative)	can be measured on a scale; take very, quite, extremely	cold, big, tired, expensive
Non-gradable (extreme)	already at the limit; take absolutely, utterly, completely	freezing, enormous, exhausted, furious
Non-gradable (absolute)	yes/no qualities	dead, unique, impossible, pregnant
Classifying	define type, not quality; normally no comparison or intensifier	nuclear, digital, chemical, medical, monthly

Exercise A – Choose the natural intensifier: very or absolutely.

1. The water was very / absolutely freezing.

2. The tickets were very / absolutely expensive.

3. I was very / absolutely exhausted after the exam.

4. Her flat is very / absolutely tiny.

5. The instructions were very / absolutely confusing.

6. The view from the summit was very / absolutely stunning.

7. He was very / absolutely angry about the decision.

8. The proposal is very / absolutely ridiculous.

Exercise B – Is the adjective classifying (CL) or qualitative (Q) in this context?

1. a chemical reaction ( )

2. a monthly magazine ( )

3. a criminal act ( )

4. a very criminal-looking character ( )

5. digital photography ( )

6. a medical emergency ( )

Exercise C – Correct the collocation error.

1. The lecture was absolutely interesting.

_____

2. The soup was very boiling.

_____

3. This solution is very unique.

_____

4. Their new house is absolutely big.

_____

Score: _____ / 18

Worksheet 2: Position and Restrictions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference

Pattern	Examples
Attributive only	the main issue, sheer luck, the former director, an utter disaster
Predicative only	afraid, alone, asleep, alive, awake, ashamed, content, ill, well
Postpositive (after the noun)	something useful, the people responsible, the best seats available, the president elect, attorney general
After measurements	two metres tall, ten years old, three miles long

Exercise A – Label the position of the underlined-style adjective: attributive (A), predicative (P) or postpositive (PP).

1. We need someone reliable for this job. ( )

2. It was sheer coincidence that we met. ( )

3. The bridge is 300 metres long. ( )

4. The manager responsible has resigned. ( )

5. The children were ashamed of their behaviour. ( )

6. She interviewed the president elect last week. ( )

Exercise B – Rewrite each sentence correctly.

1. The ill patients were moved to another ward.

_____

2. The luck was sheer.

_____

3. Useful something was said at the meeting, for once.

_____

4. The alone woman at table five ordered coffee.

_____

Exercise C – Explain the difference in meaning between the two phrases in each pair.

1. "a responsible person" vs "the person responsible"

_____

_____

2. "the visible stars" vs "the stars visible (tonight)"

_____

_____

Score: _____ / 16

Worksheet 3: Order, Punctuation and Compound Adjectives

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Full order: **determiner** → **opinion** → **size** → **age** → **shape** → **colour** → **origin** → **material** → **purpose** → **noun**. Coordinate adjectives of the same type take a comma (*a long, tedious meeting*); cumulative adjectives of different types do not (*a long wooden table*).

Exercise A – Order the adjectives (3–4 per item).

1. a (dining / mahogany / elegant / antique) table

_____

2. a (woollen / warm / Norwegian) jumper

_____

3. a (storage / metal / grey / large) cabinet

_____

4. a (silk / stunning / evening / red) dress

_____

5. a (research / ambitious / five-year) project

_____

6. a (square / leather / small / black) case

_____

Exercise B – Comma or no comma? Insert a comma where needed and mark X if none is needed.

1. It was a cold windy afternoon.

2. She lives in a charming French village.

3. He gave a long boring speech.

4. They sell fresh organic vegetables.

Exercise C – Form a compound adjective. Example: "a journey of three hours" → "a three-hour journey". Note the singular noun in the compound.

1. a contract for two years

_____

2. a building with ten storeys

_____

3. a woman with dark hair

_____

4. a policy that looks forward

_____

5. a decision made at the last minute

_____

Score: _____ / 15

Worksheet 4: Nominal Adjectives, Analysis and Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Adjectives can act as nouns for groups of people or abstract ideas: *the rich, the unemployed, the elderly, the French, the unknown*. They take a plural verb when referring to people: *The rich **are** getting richer.*

Part A – Read the passage and answer the questions.

The city's housing crisis has produced two parallel realities. In the gleaming new riverside districts, spacious apartments stand half-empty, marketed to the wealthy as sound long-term investments. Meanwhile, the homeless gather in doorways deemed unsuitable for commercial use, and families responsible for elderly relatives face waiting lists ten years long. Officials insist the situation is manageable; critics call it an utter failure of policy.

1. Find two nominal adjectives (adjectives used as nouns).

_____

2. Find one postpositive adjective structure and one measurement structure.

_____

_____

3. Find one attributive-only adjective and one predicative use after a link verb.

_____

_____

4. Identify the compound adjectives and explain the hyphenation.

_____

_____

Part B – Rewrite according to the instruction.

1. "People who are unemployed need better support." → Use a nominal adjective.

_____

2. "The meeting lasted three hours and achieved nothing." → Use a compound adjective + a strong opinion adjective.

_____

3. "Available options were limited." → Move the adjective to a postpositive position (add words as needed).

_____

4. "The film was very terrible." → Correct the gradability error in two different ways.

_____

Part C – Write a paragraph (120–150 words) describing a neighbourhood undergoing change. Requirements: one nominal adjective, one postpositive structure, one 3-adjective chain in correct order, one non-gradable adjective with a suitable intensifier, consistent neutral-formal register.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word count: _____

Score: _____ / 24

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only

Worksheet 1

#	Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Intensifiers	**absolutely, very, absolutely, very, very, absolutely, very, absolutely**
B	CL / Q	**CL, CL, CL, Q, CL, CL**
C	Corrections	**absolutely fascinating / very interesting; absolutely boiling / very hot; unique (delete very) / highly unusual; very big / absolutely enormous**

Worksheet 2

#	Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Positions	**PP, A, P (after measurement), PP, P, PP**
B	Rewrites	**The sick patients... / The patients who were ill...; It was sheer luck.; Something useful was said...; The woman sitting alone / The woman on her own at table five...**
C	Meaning	**1 attributive = a person with a responsible character; postpositive = the person who caused/is accountable for a specific event. 2 attributive = stars that are (generally) visible; postpositive = the ones visible on a particular occasion (temporary/specific reading).**

Worksheet 3

#	Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Order	**an elegant antique mahogany dining table; a warm Norwegian woollen jumper; a large grey metal storage cabinet; a stunning red silk evening dress; an ambitious five-year research project; a small square black leather case (size, shape, colour, material).**
B	Commas	**1 cold, windy (coordinate). 2 X. 3 long, boring (coordinate). 4 fresh, organic — also acceptable without a comma; discuss both readings.**
C	Compounds	**a two-year contract; a ten-storey building; a dark-haired woman; a forward-looking policy; a last-minute decision**

Worksheet 4

#	Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Passage	**1 the wealthy, the homeless. 2 postpositive: doorways deemed unsuitable / families responsible for...; measurement: waiting lists ten years long. 3 attributive-only: utter; predicative: the situation is manageable. 4 half-empty, long-term — hyphenated because they premodify or form single adjectival units.**
B	Rewrites	**1 The unemployed need better support. 2 e.g. It was a pointless three-hour meeting. 3 e.g. The options available were limited. 4 The film was absolutely terrible. / The film was very bad.**

#	Item	Answer / Guidance
C	Paragraph	**Rubric: requirements met (0–4); order/position accuracy (0–3); register (0–2); coherence (0–3).**