

Generally, the adjective order in English is:

- Quantity or number.
- Quality or opinion.
- Size.
- Age.
- Shape.
- Color.
- Proper adjective (often nationality, other place of origin, or material)
- Purpose or qualifier.

Sometimes we use **more than one** adjective in front of a noun:

He was a nice intelligent young man.

She had a small round black wooden box.

Opinion adjectives:

Some adjectives give a **general opinion**. We can use these adjectives to describe almost any noun:

good	bad	lovely	strange
beautiful	nice	brilliant	excellent
awful	important	wonderful	nasty

Some adjectives give a **specific opinion**. We only use these adjectives to describe particular kinds of noun:

Food: tasty; delicious

Furniture, buildings: comfortable; uncomfortable

People, animals: clever; intelligent; friendly

We usually put a **general opinion in front of a specific opinion**:

Nice tasty soup.

A nasty uncomfortable armchair

A lovely intelligent animal

Usually we put an adjective that gives an **opinion in front** of an adjective that is **descriptive**:

a nice red dress; a silly old man; those horrible yellow curtains

We often have **two** adjectives in front of a noun:

a handsome young man; a big black car; that horrible big dog

Sometimes we have **three** adjectives, but this is **unusual**:

a nice handsome young man;

a big black American car;

that horrible big fierce dog

It is **very unusual** to have **more than three** adjectives.

Adjectives usually come in this order:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
General opinion	Specific opinion	Size	Shape	Age	Colour	Nationality	Material

We use some adjectives only **after a link verb**:

afraid	alive	alone	asleep
content	glad	ill	ready
sorry	sure	unable	well

Some of the commonest **-ed** adjectives are normally used only **after a link verb**:

annoyed; finished; bored; pleased; thrilled

We say:

Our teacher was ill.

My uncle was very glad when he heard the news.

The policeman seemed to be very annoyed

but we do not say:

We had an ill teacher.

When he heard the news he was ~~a very glad uncle~~

He seemed to be a ~~very annoyed policeman~~

A few adjectives are used **only in front of a noun**:

north	northern	countless occasional lone	eventful
south	southern		indoor
east	eastern		outdoor
west	western		

We say:

He lives in the **eastern** district.

There were **countless** problems with the new machinery.

but we do not say:

~~The district he lives in is eastern~~

~~The problems with the new machinery were countless.~~