

Adjectives order before nouns

When several adjectives are used to modify a noun, they have to be put in a particular order. Here are some important rules for adjective order.

Adjectives of color usually go before adjectives of origin, material and purpose.

A brown Spanish leather bag (NOT A Spanish brown leather bag) (NOT A leather Spanish brown bag)

The adjectives of size, length and height usually go before other adjectives.

A round wooden table (NOT A wooden round table)

A tall, ancient oak-tree (NOT An ancient, tall oak-tree)

Adjectives which express judgment usually come before all others. Examples are: *lovely, definite, pure, absolute, perfect, wonderful, silly* etc.

A lovely, long, refreshing drink

Numbers usually go before adjectives

Six brown chairs (NOT Brown six chairs)

Ten large eggs (NOT Large ten eggs)

The words first, next and last most often go before one, two, three etc

The first two attempts (NOT The two first attempts)

Commas

When more than one adjective is used to modify a noun, we generally separate the adjectives with commas.

An expensive, wasteful, thoughtless project

Commas can be dropped between short adjectives.

A tall, fair, pretty girl (OR A tall fair pretty girl)