

# What are adjectives?

An adjective is a word like kind, happy, smart and intelligent. An adjective typically modifies a noun and denotes a temporary or permanent quality associated with that noun. For example, a *smart boy* is a boy who is distinguished from other boys by being smart.

Not all adjectives are used to denote a quality associated with a noun. For example, the adjective *mere* in 'a mere child' does not denote a quality of the child.

## Kinds of adjectives

Adjectives may be divided into the following classes:

### Adjectives of quality

Adjectives of quality refer to the kind or quality of a person or thing. They answer the question: 'of what kind?'

Tokyo is a large city. (Here the adjective large shows a certain quality associated with the city Tokyo.)

Alice is a brilliant student. (Here the adjective brilliant shows a quality associated with the noun Alice.)

Note that adjectives formed from proper nouns are generally considered as adjectives of quality. Examples are: Persian carpets, French wines etc.

### Adjectives of quantity

Adjectives of quantity answer the question 'how much?'. Examples are: *some, any, much, little, enough, all, no, half, whole etc.*

We need some rice.

You have little patience.

He has lost all his wealth.

He did not eat any rice.

# What are adjectives?

## Adjectives of number

Adjectives of number answer the question 'how many'. Examples are: *many, one, two, first, tenth, all etc.*

Each hand has five fingers.

Sunday is the first day of the week.

All men must die.

There are several mistakes in your essay.

## Demonstrative adjectives

Demonstrative adjectives answer the question 'which?'. Examples are: *this, that, these, those and such.*

That boy is industrious.

This bag is made of expensive leather.

Those mangoes were very sweet.

I hate such people.

Note that *this* and *that* are used with singular nouns. *These* and *those* are used with plural nouns.

## Interrogative adjectives

When they are used with nouns to ask questions, the questions words *what, which* and *whose* are called interrogative adjectives.

Whose bag is this?

Which way shall we go?