

Lecture Notes:

- **Adjectives:**
- Characteristic function: modifying nouns
- Typically denote properties (e.g. colour, size, shape, worth, age, etc.)
- E.g.
A huge blue German car.
John is bored.
- There are 3 main functions:
 1. **Attributive:** Attributive adjectives come before nouns and they modify nouns. Attributive adjectives are always in a NP and come before the noun.
E.g. The happy people.
 2. **Predicative:** Predicative adjectives occur inside the verb phrase.
I.e. It's part of the predicate.
E.g. They are happy.
 3. **Postpositive:** Postpositive adjectives are not very common. They usually occur after the words: "something", "someone", "anything", "anyone".
I.e. They are less frequent than attributive and predicative uses and are only possible in certain constructions (e.g. after something, anyone, nobody, etc.)
E.g. I want something delicious.
- We can identify adjectives based on their **shape**, because they take a variety of affixes/endings:
 1. Some adjectives end in 'y'.
E.g. happy, silly, nasty
 2. There are suffixes that change nouns into adjectives. The suffixes -ful, -ish, -al change a noun into an adjective.
E.g.
beauty → beautiful
regret → regretful
faith → faithful
self → selfish
girl → girlish
yellow → yellowish
form → formal
globe → global
parent → parental
 3. There are suffixes that change verbs into adjectives. The suffixes -able, -ive change a verb into an adjective.
E.g.
depend → dependable
move → movable
break → breakable
abuse → abusive
support → supportive
assert → assertive
 4. There are prefixes that attach to adjectives to make new adjectives. The prefixes un-, dis-, in- can attach to adjectives to make new adjectives.

E.g.

faithful → unfaithful

honest → dishonest

complete → incomplete

- An **adjective phrase (Adj P)** contains a mandatory adjective and an optional **intensifier**.
- An **intensifier** is a modifier, usually an adverb, that comes before adjectives or adverbs to strengthen the meaning of the adjective or adverb. Most of the time, they're just used for emphasis.
Some intensifiers are: so, really, extremely, very, etc
- Adj P = [(Intensifier) + adjective]
Note: Anything in these brackets, (), means that it's optional.
- Therefore, an Adj P can just be an adjective by itself.
- E.g. of Adj P
beautiful
extremely dry
very tired
pretty bored
really funny
so upset
Note: The bolded black words are the intensifiers and the bolded red words are the adjectives.
- **Adverbs:**
- The functions of adverbs are:
 1. Modify verbs. Answers questions such as: where, when, how.
Adverbs that answer where are called **adverbs of place**.
Adverbs that answer when are called **adverbs of time**.
Adverbs that answer how are called **adverbs of manner**.
E.g. We ran the race quickly.
 2. Intensifiers for adjectives/adverbs.
E.g. The very hungry dog ate quite quickly.
 3. Sentence adverbs. These adverbs modify the entire sentence.
E.g.
Unfortunately, he didn't attend the meeting.
Obviously, this work needs editing.
Hopefully, it won't rain tonight.
Note: Not all adverbs that are at the beginning of a sentence are sentence adverbs.
E.g. Carefully, we walked along the highway.
Here, carefully is an adverb of how as it describes how they walked along the highway.
- You can identify adverbs in this way:
Shape: Adding the suffix -ly changed adjectives to adverbs.
Note: Some adverbs are flat and have the same form as adjectives.
I.e. Flat adverbs take the same form as their adjectives.
E.g. slow, fast, hard, loud
- An **adverb phrase (AdvP)** contains an adverb and an optional intensifier.
- E.g. rather lazily → rather is the intensifier, lazily is the adverb.

- **Note:** An adverb on its own can be an AdvP.
- Adverb phrases are usually inside a verb phrase, after the verb.
- E.g.
AdvP in VP: the rat [**eats very quickly**]
VP → V + AdvP
Here, the verb is eats and the adverb phrase is very quickly.
- Sentence adverbs modify the whole sentence, at the beginning.
S → AdvP + NP + VP
- E.g.
Hopefully, she can attend the meeting.
- **Adj vs Adv:**
- Adjectives can modify nouns.
- Adverbs can modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.
- E.g.

Adjective	Adverb
<i>a <u>rapid</u> improvement_N</i>	<i>It <u>rapidly</u> improved_V</i>
<i>a <u>surprising</u> depth_N</i>	<i><u>surprisingly</u> deep/deeply</i>
<i>Progress was <u>rapid</u></i>	<i>We progressed_V <u>rapidly</u>.</i>

- However, some adjectives and adverbs share the same form. In situations like these, we still distinguish between adjectives and adverbs based on their position in the structure.
- E.g.

Adjective	Adverb
<i>an <u>early</u> departure_N</i>	<i>they departed_V <u>early</u></i>
<i>her song was <u>better</u></i>	<i>she sang_V <u>better</u></i>

- Adjectives vs Adverbs: good/bad vs. well/badly

	Base	Comparative	Superlative
Adj	good	better	best
Adv	well	better	best
Adj	bad	worse	worst
Adv	badly	worse	worst

- **Gradability:**
- Prototypical adjectives are **gradable**. They can be instantiated in varying degrees and can show that something can have different degrees.
- Some gradable adjectives are: good, bad, young, serious, tall, expensive.

- However, some are non-gradable and are interpreted more categorically.
- Some non-gradable adjectives are: alphabetical, chief, equine, federal, glandular, latter, left, marine, medical, obtainable, orthogonal, phonological, residual, syllabic, tenth, utter
- Adjectives often have both gradable and non-gradable uses.
- E.g.

NON-GRADABLE SENSE	GRADABLE SENSE
the <u>public</u> highway	a very <u>public</u> quarrel
a <u>British</u> passport	He sounds very <u>British</u>
The door was <u>open</u> .	They haven't been very <u>open</u> .

Notice that the non-gradable uses don't readily allow degree modifiers.

- Gradability also applies to adverbs.
- E.g.
very soon; too soon
very quickly; too quickly
- Notice that among adverbs as well, there are both gradable and non-gradable adverbs.
- Since some adverbs are gradable, gradability is not a good test to distinguish adjectives and adverbs.
- **Comparative and Superlative Forms:**
- Some short adjectives, as well as some short adverbs, also inflect for grade.
- E.g.
flat; flatter; flattest [Adj]
soon; sooner; soonest [Adv]
- The -er forms are called **comparative**.
- The -est forms are called **superlative**.
- **Qualifiers/Adverbs of degree/Intensifiers:**
- A **qualifier** is a word that precedes gradable adjectives and adverbs, increasing or decreasing the quality signified by the word it modifies.
- Some of the most common qualifiers in English are very, quite, rather, somewhat, more, most, less, least, too, so, just, enough, indeed, still, almost, fairly, really, pretty, even, a bit, a little, a (whole) lot, a good deal, a great deal, kind of, sort of, etc.
- If any of these qualifiers comes before an adjective or an adverb, they'll tell us about the intensity of the degree of an adjective or an adverb. These words are also called **intensifiers**.

- E.g.

He talks <u>extremely</u> <u>fast</u> .
qualifier Adverb
He is <u>extremely</u> <u>talkative</u> .
qualifier adjective

- **Note:** Non-gradable adjectives and adverbs do not have different degrees in standard English.
- **Modification:**
- While adjectives modify nouns, adverbs modify adjectives, verbs, and other adverbs.
- E.g.

Example	Head	Modifier
They were subjected to [<u>excessive</u> force].	N	Adj
She [worries <u>excessively</u>].	V	Adv
He was [<u>excessively</u> persistent].	Adj	Adv
They had been driving [<u>excessively</u> fast].	Adv	Adv

- **Adjective versus Nouns:**
- Prototypically:
 - Nouns can act as subjects, objects, etc.
 - Count nouns inflect for number (e.g. dog/dogs).
 - Nouns take adjectives as pre-head modifiers.
 - Nouns can take determiner dependents.
- Adjectives on the other hand:
 - Cannot normally be subjects or objects.
 - Don't inflect for number in English.
 - Cannot be modified by other adjectives.
 - Don't require determiners (except in fused-head constructions, e.g. the rich).
- However, both adjectives and nouns can function as a **predicative complement**. A **predicative complement**, also called a **subject complement**, is a phrase that can follow a linking verb. If the phrase is a noun phrase, we call it a **predicative nominal** and if it is an adjective phrase, we call it a **predicative adjective**. Note that these phrases that come after the verb are different from objects since they are not affected by any action of the verb. **Linking verbs** are verbs that express states rather than actions. They are called linking because they link the subject of the clause to a phrase (adjective or noun) that gives information about the subject. Linking verbs include be, appear, seem, look, become, smell, turn, get, act, go, etc. If you can replace the verb with is/am/are, then, it's a linking verb.

E.g.

The garden looks **beautiful**.

Parliament is **closed** on Fridays.

Kyle is a **policeman**.

The bread tastes **delicious**.

In the above sentences, beautiful(AdjP), closed(AdjP), policeman(NP) and delicious(AdjP) are subject complements as they either rename or describe our subjects, the garden, Parliament, Kyle and the bread. Here, the verbs look, be, and taste are linking verbs.

- **Note:** Linking verbs are followed by nouns or adjectives while action verbs are followed by adverbs.
- **Note:** Action and linking verbs must be main verbs. They cannot be auxiliary verbs.
- Like adjectives, nouns can modify other nouns. When a noun modifies another noun, we say 'a noun is functioning adjectivally'.
- **Note:** When asked to list all the adjectives in a given paragraph, we include nouns that function as adjectives.

E.g.

It is an office **chair**. Office is a noun that modifies another noun, chair.

A government **inquiry**.

The Obama **administration**.

Water **bottle**.

- **Adjectives with Restricted Functions:**
 1. **Attributive-only adjectives:** These adjectives can only be used attributively. When we try to use attributive-only adjectives as predicative complements, we get ungrammaticality.

E.g.

*the maiden voyage; *the voyage is maiden*
*this damn computer; *this computer is damn*
*utter nonsense; *the nonsense is utter*
*the main problem; *this problem is main*
*the lone soldier; *the soldier is lone*

Utter and main are attributive only adjectives.

2. **Never-attributive adjectives:** These adjectives can never be used attributively.

E.g.

*the barn is ablaze; *the ablaze barn*
*the raft is afloat; *the afloat raft*
*the chicken is alive; *the alive chicken*
*his mother is well; *his well mother*

- Notice the contrast between the never-attributive adjective “alive” and the attributive-only adjective “live”.

Attributive	Predicative
<i>the live chicken</i>	<i>*the chicken is live</i>
<i>*the alive chicken</i>	<i>the chicken is alive</i>

- **Meaning differences between uses:**
- Some adjectives show meaning differences depending on their function.
- E.g.

Attributive use	Predicative use
<i>the <u>late</u> queen</i> (=recently deceased)	<i>the queen is <u>late</u></i> (=behind schedule)
<i>my <u>old</u> school</i> (=former)	<i>the house is <u>old</u></i> (=has existed a long time)
<i>a <u>hard</u> worker</i> (=diligent/energetic)	<i>the work is <u>hard</u></i> (=difficult)
<i><u>complete</u> nonsense</i> (=absolute)	<i>the work is <u>complete</u></i> (=finished)

- **Adverbs:**
- As we saw earlier, adverbs modify adjectives, verbs, and other adverbs, but not nouns.

Example	Head	Modifier
<i>They were subjected to [<u>excessive</u> force].</i>	N	Adj
<i>She [<u>worries</u> <u>excessively</u>].</i>	V	Adv
<i>He was [<u>excessively</u> persistent].</i>	Adj	Adv
<i>They had been driving [<u>excessively</u> fast].</i>	Adv	Adv

- Many adverbs are formed by attaching the suffix –ly to adjectives.
- E.g. sufficient (ADJ) → sufficiently (ADV)
- **Adverbs versus adjectives:**
- Both adverbs and adjectives are gradable, but –ly adverbs can’t take the comparative and superlative suffixes –er and –est.

- E.g.

<i>very quickly; too quickly</i>	[Adv]
<i>very tall; too tall</i>	[Adj]
<i>more quickly; most quickly</i>	[Adv]
<i>more beautiful; most beautiful</i>	[Adj]
<i>*quicklier; *quickliest</i>	[Adv]
<i>quicker; quickest</i>	[Adj]

- **Adverb/Adjective confusion:**
- Note that some adverbs and adjectives share the same form.
- E.g.
The early departure. A hard worker. [Adj]
They departed early. She works hard. [Adv]
- Note that not all words ending in -ly are adverbs.
- E.g. cowardly, deathly, friendly, etc.

Textbook Notes:

- **Adjectives:**
- Normally, adjectives modify nouns and typically denote properties such as colour, size, shape, worth, age, etc. However, adjectives may have other properties as well.
- Adjectives have three main functions:
 1. **Attributive:** These adjectives come before nouns and modify them in a noun phrase. In this case, we call them **pre-head modifiers** since they precede the head noun.
E.g.
The happy people.
The indecisive students.
A very tasty soup.
 2. **Predicative:** These adjectives follow linking verbs. In this case, they are called **predicative adjectives** or **subject complements** since they modify the subject of the sentence.
E.g.
They are happy.
The students are indecisive.
This soup is very tasty.
 3. **Postpositive:** These adjectives are less frequent than attributive and predicative ones. They usually follow the head of a noun phrase.
E.g.
someone happy
something delicious
Note: They are only possible in certain constructions (e.g. after something, anyone, nobody, etc.)

- Based on their properties, adjectives can be:
 1. **Gradable:** Gradable adjectives can occur in varying degrees. You can use them in comparative/superlative forms and/or It can be graded using degree modifiers or intensifiers.
 E.g.
 Happier (comparative)
 Happiest (superlative)
Somewhat happy
 Happy enough
Very happy
 2. **Non-gradable:** Very few adjectives are non-gradable. They cannot occur in varying degrees. You cannot use them in comparative/superlative forms and they cannot be graded using degree modifiers or intensifiers.
 Here is a list of some non-gradable adjectives: alphabetical; chief; equine; federal; glandular; latter; left; marine; medical; obtainable; orthogonal; phonological; residual; syllabic; tenth; utter.
 Notice that the non-gradable uses don't readily allow degree modifiers like "very".
- **Note:** Some short adjectives (as well as some short adverbs) also inflect for grade.
 E.g.
 flat; flatter; flattest [Adj]
 soon; sooner; soonest [Adv]
 The -er forms are called **comparative**.
 The -est forms are called **superlative**.
- Adjectives often have both gradable and non-gradable uses.

NON-GRADABLE SENSE	GRADABLE SENSE
<i>the <u>public</u> highway</i>	<i>a very <u>public</u> quarrel</i>
<i>a <u>British</u> passport</i>	<i>He sounds very <u>British</u>.</i>
<i>The door was <u>open</u>.</i>	<i>They haven't been very <u>open</u>.</i>

- Note: Adverbs, nouns and verbs can also be graded.

E.g. for adverbs

Very soon; Too soon

Very quickly; Too quickly

E.g. for nouns

much success; little success

major problem; minor problem

E.g. for verbs

They enjoyed it very much; they enjoyed it very little

Here, "very much" and "very little" are modifying the verb "enjoy".

Notice that nouns and verbs cannot use the same degree modifiers (e.g. very and too) to express gradation as adjectives and adverbs do. Therefore, the degree adverbs "very" and "too" can only modify adjectives/adverbs.

E.g.

Very success, very problem, too success, too problem, very enjoy, too enjoy don't make grammatical sense.

- An **adjective phrase (AdjP)** has an adjective as its head. The head of an adjective phrase can be preceded by modifying elements called **intensifiers**. Intensifiers are also known as **adverbs of degree** or **qualifiers**.

E.g.

Extremely hot

Very delicious

So selfish

Quite interesting

Fairly easy

- As mentioned before, an adjective can function as an attributive, predicative or postpositive adjective. Note that from this point, we will consider all adjectives as adjective phrases. This means that adjectives form their own phrases. Therefore, an adjective phrase can function:

1. **As a modifier within a noun phrase (attributive adjective).**

E.g.

The sad man.

Here, "the sad man" is a noun phrase, and the adjective phrase 'sad' is modifying the noun 'man' attributively.

2. **As a predicative complement in a verb phrase (predicative adjective).**

E.g. The man is sad.

Here, the adjective phrase 'sad' is modifying the noun phrase 'the man'. This is a predicative adjective since it follows the linking verb 'be' and, therefore, modifies the subject of the sentence. These types of adjectives are called **predicative adjectives** or **subject complements**.

3. **As post-head modifiers (postpositive adjectives).**

E.g. We are looking for someone cheerful.

- **Note:** If adjective phrases occur in the NP, they are attributive.
- **Note:** If they occur as complements after linking verbs, they are predicative.
- **Adjectives vs Nouns:**
- Prototypically:
 - Nouns can act as subjects, objects, indirect objects, and predicative complements.
 - Count nouns inflect for number (e.g. dog/dogs).
 - Nouns take adjectives as pre-head modifiers.
 - Nouns can take determiner dependents.
- However, like adjectives, nouns can also modify nouns attributively. In the following examples, the first noun is modifying the second noun. In this case, we say, the first noun functions as an adjective and modifies the second noun.

A government inquiry

A London park

The Obama administration

The biology syllabus

A computer error

- **Adjectives on the other hand:**
 - Cannot normally be subjects or objects, but can act as predicative complements (subject complement or object complement).
 - Don't inflect for number in English.
 - Cannot be modified by other adjectives.
 - Don't require determiners except in fused-head constructions.
- **Linking verbs versus action verbs:**
- Verbs in English are divided into two basic categories based on their function:
 1. **Linking verbs:** Also known as **being verbs** since they express state of being.
 2. **Action verbs:** Describe an action.
- Linking verbs link two ideas and say that they are the same.
E.g.
Susan will be disappointed after she hears about the truth.
The fish in your kitchen smells disgusting.
- Verbs that refer to the five senses are linking verbs only if they act as an equal sign in the sentence. If they aren't equating two ideas, they are not linking verbs. In the above example sentences, we saw how the phrase that followed the verb (adjective phrases disappointed and disgusting) refers to the subject of the sentence. That is, the subject of the sentence and the phrase that follows the linking verb are the same. In this case, we call these phrases **subject complement** since they refer to the subject and complete the meaning of the sentence. Complement refers to the fact that these phrases complete the meaning of the sentence. Linking verbs unlike action verbs take complements rather than direct objects.
- As for adjectives, they can also be called **predicative adjectives** since they follow the linking verb, which itself is the head of the predicate.
- **Note:** Some verbs including appear, become, feel, grow, look, remain, seem, smell, sound, stay, taste, and turn can act either as linking verbs or action verbs. You have to understand the relationships in the sentence.
- Everything that is not 'being' is an action verb. Action verbs do not necessarily involve physical activity. This includes verbs such as think, have, dream, sleep, sit, etc. Therefore, action verbs can describe both physical and mental actions. They tell us what the subject of the clause is doing physically or mentally.
E.g.
I **want** a horse for my birthday.
They **walk** on the beach on weekends.
I **think** it will rain.
- **Adverbs:**
- Just the way an adjective is the head of an adjective phrase, an adverb phrase takes an adverb as its head. Adverb phrases typically modify a verb within a predicate/verb phrase. Adverb phrases may occur in many different types. The majority of adverbs can occur in several positions within a clause.
- **Note:** The normal position of an adverb phrase is immediately following the verb or at the end of a sentence. Sometimes, for emphasis, we move adverbs around within a clause. This is one of their most distinctive characteristics. Also, compared to nouns and verbs, adverbs and adjectives are not essential to the clause. They are mainly optional modifiers.

- Sometimes, adverbs are preceded by an adverb of degree/intensifier/qualifier. We saw this property for adjectives as well. Therefore, an adverb phrase consists of an adverb as its head and optional modifiers that are called adverbs of degree/intensifier/qualifier.

E.g.

Very forcefully (AdvP)

More surprisingly (AdvP)

So carefully (AdvP)

- Adverbs can carry different functions based on the kind of information they provide:
 1. **Sentence adverbs** modify the whole clause. Sentence adverb phrases express the speaker's or the writer's attitude to the content of the sentence. They are normally placed at the beginning of the sentence and are separated from the rest of the sentence with a comma.
E.g.
Most surprisingly, she passed the test!
Obviously, she is not happy with the results.
 2. **Adverbs of degree** (modify adjectives and other adverbs). These are also known as intensifiers or qualifiers.
E.g.
Incredibly fast
 3. **Adverbs of manner** (how). Tell us about the way something happens or is done.
E.g.
The children ran **reluctantly**. **How? Reluctantly.**
She waited **anxiously**. **How? Anxiously.**
 4. **Adverbs of time** (when). Tell us when something happens.
E.g.
The teachers arrived **yesterday**. **When? Yesterday.**
 5. **Adverbs of place** (where). Tell us where something happens or where something is.
E.g.
Your neighbour is waiting **outside**. **Where? Outside.**
 6. **Adverb of frequency** (how often). Tell us how often something happens.
E.g. always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, barely, never, etc.
E.g.
Him and I meet **frequently** at the station. **How often? Frequently.**

- **Distinctions between adjectives and adverbs:**
- Adjectives can modify nouns and act as predicative complements. Adverbs, conversely, modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.
- However, some adjectives and adverbs share the same form.

Adjective	Adverb
An early departure.	They departed early .
Her song was better .	She sang better .

- In situations like these, we still distinguish between adjectives and adverbs based on their position in the structure. Again, only adjectives modify nouns and act as predicative complements. While adjectives modify nouns, adverbs modify adjectives, verbs, and other adverbs.