

Unit 65: POSITION OF ADJECTIVES

Most adjectives can go either in a noun phrase (Unit 45) or alone.

1 In a noun phrase

a The adjective goes before the noun or pronoun:

a **difficult task** (NOT *task difficult*) **happy employees**
an **open window** (NOT *window open*) the **red one**

b If you want to write two or more adjectives together in a noun phrase, the usual order is:

FEELING >>>	SIZE >>>	AGE >>>	COLOUR >>>	PLACE >>>	TYPE >>>	NOUN
nice	smooth		green		granite	countertop
		old		Toronto		houses
	large		black		lamp	shades
wonderful		new		Italian	marble	sink

NOTICE: If the noun is **something**, **anyone** or a similar word (Unit 51: NOTICE), the adjective goes after the noun:

I want **something large**. (NOT *large something*)

NOTICE: The adjectives **afraid**, **alive**, **alone**, **asleep**, **awake**, **ill** and **well** cannot go in a noun phrase.

2 Alone

There are two positions:

a After the verbs **be**, **become**, **feel**, **get**, **look**, **seem**, **smell**, **sound** and **taste**. For example:

The house was old. Everybody became sick.
It feels cold. He seemed friendly.
(**Friendly** is an adjective, NOT an adverb.)

b After a noun phrase and the verbs **call**, **find**, **get**, **hate**, **have**, **leave**, **like**, **make**, **paint** and **want**. For example:

They painted the house red.

It made them happy.

He pushed a window open.

I found him friendly.

NOTICE: Adjectives from nouns, and a few other adjectives (for example, **main, only**) cannot go alone.