

Position of adjectives

Adjectives usually go before the nouns they modify.

She is a nice girl. (Here the adjective nice modifies the noun girl and goes before it.)

He is an intelligent boy.

That was a clever idea.

When two or more adjectives come before a noun, they are usually separated by commas.

A large, round table

A short, fair, pretty girl

Note that we do not put a comma after the last adjective in the series.

When the last two are adjectives of color, they are usually separated by and.

A black and white cow (NOT black white cow)

Red and blue socks

When two or more adjectives come in the predicative position, we use and between the last two.

It was hot and sultry.

The boy was handsome, smart and polite.

The clouds looked white and fluffy.

Sometimes we put an adjective after the noun for the sake of emphasis.

There lived an old man strong and wicked. (More emphatic than 'There lived a strong and wicked old man.')

In phrases such as those given below, the adjective always comes after the noun.

Time-immemorial

Heir-apparent

God Almighty

President elect

In lines of poetry, too, the adjective is sometimes put after the noun.

O men with sisters dear! (Instead of 'O men with dear sisters')