

# Adjectives

## Reteaching

**Adjectives** modify noun or pronouns. They limit the meaning of the words they modify. Adjectives tell *what kind, which one, how many, or how much*.

blue ocean      those swimmers      many waves      less sunscreen

**Articles** are the most common adjectives. **Indefinite articles** (*a* and *an*) refer to unspecified members of groups of people, places, things, or ideas. *The* is the **definite article** that refers to a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

**Proper adjectives** are formed from proper nouns. They are capitalized and often end in *-n, -an, -ian, -ese, or -ish*. Some examples are *American, Japanese, and Polish*.

### Finding Adjectives

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Do not underline the articles.

1. Everyone enjoys a relaxing day at the beach.
2. Listening to the regular sound of waves hitting the beach can soothe jangled nerves.
3. I can see about ten umbrellas from where I am standing.
4. Those umbrellas protect sensitive skin from harmful sunlight.
5. I usually sunbathe in a place with fewer people, away from the crowd.
6. There I share the beach with a more seagulls than people.
7. I have gone there for several years.
8. The hot sand burned my feet.
9. When I go to that beach, I take cold drinks and salty snacks.
10. If I am lucky, I can read an interesting book for a few hours.
11. Little children play quietly near their parents.
12. I like to go for long walks on the beach.
13. I look for colorful shells and more rocks for my collection.
14. In the distance, I can see cruise ships on the way to Mexican resorts.
15. I imagine exciting trips to South American ports.
16. In my mind, I see Spanish galleons at the bottom of the ocean.
17. Chests with rare coins and gold necklaces lie a thousand feet below the surface.
18. The sight of a beach ball ends this daydream.
19. I returned to my soft blanket on the beach.
20. The angry gulls flew away when I disturbed them.
21. Soon they settle down, and a peaceful feeling descends on all of us.
22. Someday I would like to buy a house near the blue ocean.
23. I would sit on a comfortable chair on my porch and look at the sea.
24. I would watch gentle sunrises and spectacular sunsets every day.
25. I would never leave that beach again.

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## More Practice

### A. Identifying Adjectives

Underline each adjective once and the word it modifies twice. Some words are modified by more than one adjective. Do not underline articles. If the adjective is a proper adjective, write **P** above it.

1. Ted has taken several classes in photographic journalism.
2. The thoughtful audience remained silent throughout the performance.
3. The new models will use less fuel and get better mileage.
4. Gloria bought a yellow shirt and white jeans.
5. The senior class is studying European history.
6. Mauna Loa is a large volcano on one of the Hawaiian islands.
7. McIntosh apples usually are crisp and juicy.
8. The reporters asked insightful questions during the interview.
9. The agents found the secret documents in an old suitcase.
10. The miners talked to the press after the terrifying ordeal.
11. The refreshing water cooled my hot feet.
12. The travel magazine included an article about Japanese gardens.

### B. Using Adjectives

Fill in the blanks with one or more adjectives to improve the descriptions of people who are enjoying a day at the beach. (Change the article preceding your adjectives from *a* to *an* if you use an adjective that begins with a vowel.)

The beach is filled with people looking for fun. **(1)** A \_\_\_\_\_ boy with a plastic bucket is digging in the sand. **(2)** His sister, dressed in a \_\_\_\_\_ swimsuit is building a sand castle next to him. **(3)** Back on the beach blanket, their mother, a young woman with \_\_\_\_\_ hair keeps close watch on them. **(4)** She calls to them in a \_\_\_\_\_ voice and points to a \_\_\_\_\_ bird near them. **(5)** An older couple dressed in \_\_\_\_\_ shorts enjoy a \_\_\_\_\_ walk along the beach. **(6)** Farther up the beach, a \_\_\_\_\_ group of young people are playing volleyball, shouting to each other in \_\_\_\_\_ voices. **(7)** One of the players seems especially \_\_\_\_\_, laughing and encouraging the other players. **(8)** All in all, it is a \_\_\_\_\_ day at the beach.

Lesson 5

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## Application

### A. Writing Sentences with Adjectives

Revise these plain sentences by adding at least one adjective to each. You may also add descriptive phrases and clauses if you wish. Write your new sentence on the line. Underline the adjectives you have added.

**EXAMPLE** The truck rumbled down the street.  
*The garbage truck rumbled down the narrow city street.*

1. The flower wilted in the sunlight.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The milk tasted bad after a day in the cooler.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. A child pulled a wagon across the field.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A siren broke the stillness of the night.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Bring a sweater on the hike.

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Revising with Adjectives

On the lines below, write a paragraph about a day at the beach. Use at least ten adjectives in your paragraph. Include at least one proper adjective.

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