

Adjectives and Adverbs
Handout
pbojo@cambridge.org

Task: Assign the highlighted adjectives in each of the following examples to one of the three positions – attributive, predicative, postpositive.

The green door opened slowly

This stretch of water is dangerous

The shareholders present voted against the Chairman.

Jan feels ill

A larger than normal pay increase was awarded to the nurses.

(<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/adjectiv/attribut.htm>)

Task 2: Explain and give example of the following:

Adjective and adverb homomorphs:

“ing” adjective and participle:

Postpositive adjective:

Adjective with complementation:

An Adjective as a head of the noun phrase:

Adjective functioning as the sole realization of a verbless clause:

Exclamatory adjective clause:

Restrictive adjectives and their possible homonyms:

Adjectives related to nouns:

Gradable and non-gradable adjective

Particle as an adverb and a preposition in phrasal verbs

Adverb as modifier:

Choice between inflectional and periphrastic comparison of adjectives and adverbs:

Task 3: Explain ordering of adjectives in pre-modification and give examples

Task 4: distinguish between stative and dynamic adjectives in the following list:

Big, calm, careful, red, cruel, small, impatient.

Task 5: Distinguish between inherent and non-inherent adjectives

An old man

A complete idiot

A heavy burden

A social survey

A social animal

A social animal

An old friend

A heavy smoker

Morphological analysis worksheet + guideline

Text 3:

Why People Lie: Investigating The Truth About Deception

1. It was a clear summer night in Seattle, and my husband and I had gone to see a concert at a
2. local winery with a couple we were just getting to know. The four of us spread out a picnic
3. blanket, unpacked an assortment of gourmet snacks, and poured wine. Just before the band
4. came on, a dozen hot-air balloons drifted overhead, stunning against the fiery sunset. We
5. oohed and aahed. As our husbands looked on, my new friend turned to me and said, "I've
6. always wanted to go up in a hot-air balloon. Have you ever done that?"
7. And then, out of my mouth, flew the lie. "Yes."
8. My cheeks flushed as she smiled in amazement and peppered me with questions. "What was
9. it like? Was it fun? Did they serve Champagne?" "I don't remember what I said. I was too
10. stunned by my own deception.
11. Let me be clear: I had never set foot in a hot-air balloon. Never sailed among the clouds or
12. felt the wind in my hair 1,000 feet above the ground. As the lie smouldered in me that
13. evening, I analysed dozens of back-out strategies and explanations ("I meant to say that
14. when I worked for a cruise line, I helped people book hot-air-balloon tours, but I never
15. actually went up in one"). In the end, none seemed right. So, I kept my mouth shut. I felt
16. guilty and ashamed. The lie, as random as it was, suddenly had power over me.
17. Today, more than a decade later, it still does. It is the one nagging blemish on my otherwise
18. spotless sense of integrity. What compelled me – the girl who, after taking her first sip of
19. alcohol in high school, immediately confessed to her parents – to blurt out such a trivial
20. untruth? Can I really consider myself an honest person if I could lie so easily about
21. something so silly?

I've picked morphological analysis. I'd like to divide my presentation to 2 parts. In the first part, I'd like to focus on the morphology and the structure of some selected words. In the second part, I'd like to analyse the text from other morphological aspects, namely word classes and their categories. (now, select the parts (words) you'd like to analyse).

Fill in the rest of the description with suitable / most appropriate answers.

1. morphemic structure of words.

Morphology traditionally deals with inflectional morphemes which are grammar markers whereas lexicology, or, as some linguists call it, lexical morphology rather deals with word-formation. With this understanding of morphology and its inflectional part, I've chosen the following words / examples:

Line 3: unpacked, snacks, poured (analyze these words, consider their morphemic structure and the functions of the inflectional morphemes.

Line 4: stunning, Line 16: ashamed – are the morphemes attached to the root inflectional or derivational? Give reason for your choice.

Line 6 – done, Line 15 – went up – comment on the morphemic structure of these past forms.

2. In the second part of my analysis, I would like to select some words to demonstrate the knowledge on **word classes and their categories**.

Nouns and pronouns

Line 1: *my husband* – identify the type of the pronoun and the noun and determine their grammatical categories:

Line 9: *Champagne* – identify the type of noun. Can, in certain contexts, an article be used with this noun?

Line 1 and 2: *a concert, a local winery, the sunset* – comment on the use of the article.

Line 8: *cheeks*, **line 11:** *clouds*, **line 12:** *feet*, **line 13:** *strategies, explanations* – comment on the use of plural, its realisations and pronunciation.

Line 13: *dozens* – comment on using the plural form and the combination of this word with a numeral.

Line 6: *that* – identify the type of pronoun and comment on the type of reference (anaphora / cataphora) Find another pronoun in the text which shares the same type of reference and refers to the same event as the pronoun “*that*” in the text

Adjectives and adverbs:

Line 1: *clear summer night* – comment on the position of adjective (attributive, predicative, post-positive), contrast your choice with the underlined adjective in *The girl looks happy* and with the following pair of sentences: *He is a highly intelligent person.*

He is highly intelligent.

Line 1: *clear summer night* – is the adjective *clear* inherent or non-inherent? Explain your choice.

Line 14: *cruise line* , **Line 1:** *summer night* – comment on premodification of noun by another noun functioning as adjective. Can such noun function in predicative position?

Compare nouns functioning as adjectives with regular adjectives. What are the possible limitations?

Line 18: *spotless sense of integrity* – comment on adjectives with complementation.

Line 20: *trivial untruth*: explain the term of intensifying adjectives. Identify the type of intensifying adjective “*trivial*” (types: emphasizeers, amplifiers, downtoners).

Line 14, 15: “*I never: actually, went up in one*”). Is the particle “*up*” an adverb or a preposition? Give reason for your choice.

Line 16: *ashamed* – comment on the syntactic position of adjectives starting with “a” and their usage with verbs.