

Adjectives enliven your writing! Friday Jan 4, 2013

Notice how these authors use adjectives to create a sense of mood and provide more accurate insights about people and places.

The statue continued in a low musical voice: "In a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress. She is embroidering passion-flowers on a satin gown for the loveliest of the Queen's maids-of-honour to wear at the next Court-ball. In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt?" (*The Happy Prince*, Oscar Wilde)

"Napoleon was a large, rather fierce-looking Berkshire boar, the only Berkshire on the farm ... Snowball was a more vivacious pig than Napoleon, quicker in speech and more inventive, but was not considered to have the same depth of character. All the other pigs on the farm were porkers. The best known among them was a fat pig named Squealer, with very round cheeks, twinkling eyes, nimble movements and a shrill voice." (*Animal Farm*, George Orwell)

Choose a paragraph from a text.

Underline the adjectives. What do they add to the text?

Read the passages above. List 6 adjectives from each passage and state which noun they describe or qualify.

Exercise 28

Adjective	Noun/Pronoun
1. musical	voice
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

Adjective	Noun/Pronoun
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	

Writing about people



Remember your recounts of people! (See p. 17.) Include some adjectives to describe their thoughts and feelings. Look up the *Thesaurus*.



LOOK UP: horrified, confused, kind, curious, tired, naughty, happy, careless, lonely, cautious, friendly, unfriendly, determined, brave, sad, painful, wicked, surprised, lazy, stubborn.

scared: fearful, timid; anxious, nervous; fretful, afraid, apprehensive, frightened.

Revision tasks

1. Write a letter to the editor on a current issue.
2. Redraft one of your character sketches and create a short narrative.
 - use a variety of sentence types and structures;
 - use a variety of phrases;
 - choose adverbs and adjectives to accurately reflect actions and feelings; and
 - include listing devices.



Choose a sample of paragraphs from different texts. Identify:

- a range of sentence types
- 2 complex sentences
- 2 compound sentences
- 2 simple sentences
- an example of listing
- a passive sentence
- 2 adverbial phrases
- an adjectival clause
- 2 auxiliary verbs
- 2 modal verbs
- 5 prepositions and
- a finite verb and a non-finite verb.

Indicate the grammatical error in the brackets.

Exercise 74

1. The teacher is pleased with Carl's enthusiasm, spirit and hardworking. (....)
2. Although other students are given lots of money as well. (....)
3. A few days ago, Joy and Maddie go to the football and saw the new ruckman. (....)
4. At the sight of the gentlemen in the wig the children screamed. (....)
5. Some parents believes that their children should not get more than \$20 pocket money. (....)
6. Every day he reads one book he gets upset if he cannot find another book to read straightaway. (....)

- A. Run-on sentence.
- B. Inconsistent use of tenses: mixture of past and present tenses.
- C. Incorrect punctuation: insert a comma.
- D. The (dependent) clause cannot stand alone.
- E. The list consists of different parts of speech.
- F. The subject does not agree in number with the verb.

Is it a passive (P) or an active (A) sentence?

- She was knocked down on the way home. ()
 Her childhood was emotionally deprived. ()
 Her mother asked her to wash the dishes. ()

- The door was obviously locked. ()
 She is furious with the cat. ()
 The gardens are to be landscaped. ()