

Language Arts – Chapter 3 Adjectives

3.1 Descriptive Adjectives

Adjective – describes a noun

Descriptive Adjectives – tell about the size, shape, color, or weight of the things they describe

- Tell how something looks, tastes, smells, or feels
- Generally comes before a noun
 - o Dinosaurs are **large** animals.

3.2 Proper Adjectives

Proper adjectives – descriptive adjectives that come from proper nouns; begin with capital letters

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| - Africa | African |
| - America | American |
| - Arab | Arabic, Arabian |
| - France | French |
| - Greece | Greek |
| - Poland | Polish |
| - Sweden | Swedish |

***More examples on p. 56; refer to a dictionary when in doubt

3.3 Articles

Articles – **a**, **an**, and **the**

Indefinite articles – refer to any one of a class of things

- **A** and **an**
- **A** is used before words beginning with a consonant sound. **An** is used before words beginning with a vowel sound.
 - o Vowel sounds
 - **An** iceberg
 - **An** hour
 - o Consonant sounds
 - **A** stone
 - **A** nest

- If the article precedes a descriptive adjective, the article agrees with the vowel sound of the adjective
 - o **A** large microscope
 - o **An** old microscope

Definite Articles – refers to one or more specific persons, places, or things

- **The**
 - o **The** roach lived 55 million years before **the** dinosaurs!

3.4 Repetition of Articles

When two or more nouns joined by **and** refer to different people, places, or things, use an article before each noun.

- **The** paleontologist and **the** geologist worked together to find the fossils.
 - o Pay attention to key words such as **together** which tell you it is more than one person, place, or thing
 - o If more than 1 person, place, or thing use an article for each one.

When two or more nouns joined by **and** refer to the same person, place, or thing use an article with the first noun only.

- **The** writer and illustrator of the project on dinosaurs was a fifth grader.
 - o Sometimes there will be context clues (such as a reference to 1 name, or a clue that something was “all by...”) that will help you easily pick up that it is 1 person, place, or thing.
 - o If 1 person, place, or thing use only 1 article

3.5 Demonstrative Adjectives

Demonstrative Adjective – points out a specific person, place, or thing and is **more specific than a, an, or the.**

- Point out 1 person, place, or thing – **this** and **that**
- Point out more than 1 person, place, or thing – **these** and **those**
- Point out items that are near – **this** and **these**
- Point out items that are farther away – **that** and **those**
 - o **This** fossil belonged to a raptor. (singular, near)
 - o **That** tool is used by paleontologists. (singular, far)
 - o **These** teeth are from a T.rex. (plural, near)
 - o **Those** horns are from a Triceratops. (plural, far)

3.6 Adjectives That Tell How Many

Some descriptive adjectives tell *how many* or *about how many*. Each of these adjectives comes before a count noun.

A number can be used as adjective that tells how many.

- **One** photograph
- **Fifty** bones
- **20** tour guides

A word that tells number order can be an adjective that tells how many

- The **first** visit
- The **10th** trip
- The **hundredth** visitor

Some words can be used as adjectives that tell about how many

All	Each	Few	Much	Some
Any	Either	Many	Neither	
Both	Every	Most	Several	

- **All** dinosaurs died out millions of years ago.
- **Every** student in my class is interested in dinosaurs.

3.7 Adjectives as Subject Complement

Subject complement – an adjective that follows a linking verb and completes the sentence and describes the subject of the sentence

- The T.rex was **powerful**.

***An adjective usually comes before a noun. A subject complement, however, follows a linking verb and comes after the noun it describes.

- The **fierce** T.rex preyed on animals. (fierce comes before the noun T.rex)
- The animal was **frightening**. (frightening comes after the linking verb “was” and describes animal – subject complement)

3.8 Adjectives That Compare

Most adjectives have 3 degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative.

Positive – shows the quality of a noun

- The T.rex was a **large** predatory dinosaur.

Comparative – used to compare 2 items or 2 sets of items; often used with the word **than**

- The Carcharodonotsaurus may have been **larger** than the T.rex.

Superlative – used to compare 3 or more items.

- The Giganotosaurus may have been **largest** of all predatory dinosaurs.

For adjectives of 1 syllable and some adjectives of 2 syllables (generally those ending in **y**), the comparative is formed by adding **-er** to the positive. The superlative is formed by adding **-est** to the positive.

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
smart	smarter	smartest
narrow	narrower	narrowest

Special rules to follow:

- If an adjective ends in **e**, just add **-r** or **-st**
 - o **tame tamer tamest**
- If an adj. ends in **y** with a consonant before it, change the **y** to **i** before adding **-er** or **-est**
 - o **clumsy clumsier clumsiest**
- If a single-syllable adj. ends in a consonant with a vowel before it, double the consonant before adding **-er** or **-est**.
 - o **hot hotter hottest**

Some adjectives have irregular forms of comparison

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
good	better	best
well	better	best
bad	worse	worst

3.9 More, Most *and* Less, Least

Most adjectives of 3 or more syllables and some adjectives of 2 syllables do not end in **-er** or **-est** to form the comparative and superlative degrees.

The comparative is formed by adding **more** or **less** before the positive form of the adjective.

The superlative is formed by adding **most** or **least** before the positive form of the adjective.

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
mysterious	more mysterious	most mysterious
	less mysterious	least mysterious
famous	more famous	most famous
	less famous	least famous

- Dinosaurs can be **more mysterious** than suspense novels. (comparative)
- I think the really huge dinosaurs are **most mysterious** of all. (superlative)
- Insects are **less interesting** than T.rex. (comparative)
- What is the **least interesting** dinosaur? (superlative)

***Check dictionary for proper forms of adjectives

***Incorrect to use **more** or **less** and **-er** together, or **most** or **least** and **-est** together.

3.10 Fewer, Fewest *and* Less, Least

Less, least, fewer, and fewest are used in comparing things.

- Use **less** and **least** with abstract nouns (things that you generally cannot see, touch, and count)
- Use **few** and **fewer** with concrete nouns (things that you can see, touch, and count)
- **Less** and **fewer** – comparative form – compare 2 things or 2 sets of things
- **Least** and **fewest** – superlative form – compare more than 2 things
- Comparative
 - o There were **fewer** types of plants during the Jurassic period than during the Cretaceous. (with a concrete noun)
 - o There was **less** rain during the Triassic period. (with an abstract noun)
- Superlative
 - o The **fewest** plants existed during the Triassic period. (with a concrete noun)

- The **least** moisture was present during the Triassic period. (with an abstract noun)

3.11 Interrogative Adjectives

Interrogative adjective – used in asking a question; comes before a noun

- **What, which, and whose**
- **What** is used for asking about people or things.
 - **What** animals should we have in our classroom?
- **Which** is usually used to ask about 1 of 2 or more people or things.
 - **Which** dinosaur was bigger – Argentinosaurus or Seismosaurus?
- **Whose** asks about possession.
 - **Whose** model of a T.rex is this?