



What Is an Adjective?

Talk to your partner and see if you can define what an **adjective** is.

Start

An adjective is a **describing word** that can either:

- come **before** a noun, e.g. The pupils did some **remarkable** work;
- come **after** a form of the verb 'to be' (is/am/are/was/were/be/been/being), e.g. The pupils' work **was remarkable**.

Spot the Adjective

Can you spot the **powerful adjectives** in these sentences?



The **menacing** earthquake shook the ground.

Running past **collapsing** buildings, the people were **terrified**.

The **calm** charity worker tried to point the **anxious** villagers towards a place of safety.

Improve the Adjective

Which more powerful words could replace the adjective to improve this sentence?

Thousands of miles away, a **good** island lay in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.



You could have replaced 'good' with...

- exquisite
- splendid
- marvellous
- magnificent
- glorious
- breath-taking
- superb

Improve the Adjective

Which more powerful words could replace the adjective to improve this sentence?

As the film reached its dramatic conclusion, the crowd were **shocked**.



You could have replaced 'shocked' with...

- stunned
- shaken
- taken aback
- astonished
- astounded
- staggered
- flabbergasted

Improve the Adjective

Which more powerful words could replace the adjective to improve this sentence?

The **happy** lotto winner jumped for joy at her multi-million pound win.



You could have replaced 'happy' with...

- ecstatic
- jubilant
- overjoyed
- elated
- euphoric
- delighted
- triumphant

Improve the Adjective

Which more powerful words could replace the adjective to improve this sentence?

The monster's pathetic attempts at hiding are **silly**.

You could have replaced 'silly' with...

laughable

ridiculous

absurd

ludicrous

embarrassing

incredible



Improve the Passage

Can you spot all of the boring adjectives in this passage and improve them? Choose powerful adjectives that will create a clear picture for the reader.

Taking a **big** gulp of air, the **tired** climber dug his ice tool into the **hard** surface of the mountain. His hands and feet were **cold**, and he wasn't sure if he was going to be able to make it. Would **this dangerous cliff** face really defeat him?

Some powerful adjective ideas...

big	tired	hard	cold	dangerous
great	wearry	solid	perished	treacherous
considerable	exhausted	unyielding	icy	perilous
substantial	fatigued	rigid	frozen	hazardous

Adjectives to Add Meaning

A powerful adjective choice can really improve the effectiveness of a sentence and add meaning for the reader.

Our new neighbours are _____.

Complete this sentence by adding an ambitious and powerful adjective that gives the reader a clear picture of the new neighbours.

You could have used these more powerful adjectives...

Our new neighbours are **eccentric**.

Our new neighbours are **solitary**.

Our new neighbours are **atrocious**.

Do you know what each of the adjectives mean? If not, look them up in a dictionary!

Adjectives to Add Meaning

A powerful adjective choice can really improve the effectiveness of a sentence and add meaning for the reader.

Suddenly, he let out a _____ laugh.

Complete this sentence by adding an ambitious and powerful adjective that shows exactly how 'he' laughed.

You could have used these more powerful adjectives...

Suddenly, he let out an **apprehensive** laugh.

Suddenly, he let out a **malicious** laugh.

Suddenly, he let out a **raucous** laugh.

Do you know what each of the adjectives mean? Could you act out each type of laugh?

Add the Adjectives



Can you add powerful adjectives to complete this passage?

At the end of their _____ performance, the gymnastics team were _____. After months of _____ practice, had they managed to do enough to impress the _____ judges? They held a _____ pose as the audience gave them a round of applause.

Share your adjective choices with a partner. Do the powerful adjectives you have chosen affect the passage's meaning?

