

## Adjectives

How **boring**! Look at my **shiny red** car. It's **faster** than yours.

I am the **best** driver.



### Grammar in Context

Theme: Media and publications

Words by Theme



Read the following poem and answer the questions.

#### The New Idiot Box

The most important thing we can learn,

As far as education<sup>1</sup> is concerned,

Is to never let computers<sup>2</sup>

Become our private tutors.

We've seen it all.

It started when we were small.

Babies pick up the **dumb** habit.

They grow up with the **smart** tablet<sup>3</sup>.

They lounge and loll about,

Using the cell phones until they pass out.

They tap and check all day.

Children behave in an **unpleasant** way

Until they have sunk

Into all that **terrible, worthless**<sup>4</sup> junk<sup>5</sup>.

Oh yes, we know it keeps them **still**.

It allows their brains to fill

With no books, no ideas—nothing.

They don't care about anything.

People used to say that friends are the **best**.

Now we may put this to rest.

- Find all the adjectives in stanza 1.  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Find a pair of adjectives with opposite meanings in stanza 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Find a pair of adjectives with similar meanings in stanza 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Find an adjective with a positive meaning in stanza 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).
  - Computers are important for education.
  - Electronic devices are addictive.
  - The technology helps us stay physically active.
  - Learning becomes passive.
  - Young people today are having more social skills.

#### More to take away

as far as something is concerned (spoken) = used to show which topic you are talking about  
put something to rest (idiom) = to stop people from worrying about or believing something

## PART 1 Positions of adjectives

We use adjectives to describe nouns.

Usages	Examples
Adjective + Noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen Hawking is an <i>intelligent scientist</i>.</li> <li>We had an <i>exciting and wonderful trip</i>.</li> </ul>
Linking verb + Adjective (linking verb = be, become, feel, look, seem, smell, sound, taste etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The turkey <i>smells sour</i>.</li> <li>The cake <i>tastes sweet</i>.</li> <li>The band <i>seems quite famous</i>.</li> <li>Sophia is <i>very knowledgeable</i>.</li> </ul>

Use *and* to connect two adjectives of the same type.

**Do not modify absolute adjectives:**  
The plan is *quite perfect*.  
The mission is *very impossible*.

### Error Diagnosis

Some adjectives can only go before nouns.

*north*   *former*   *elder*   *main*   *only*   *next*   *outdoor*

That *basketball court* is *outdoor*. ✗

That is an *outdoor basketball court*. ✓

Some adjectives can only go after linking verbs.

*afraid*   *alike*   *alive*   *alone*   *asleep*   *aware*   *awake*

The *alone* man *was* sad when his wife died. ✗

The man *was alone* when his wife died. ✓

When more than one adjective comes before a noun, they are normally in a particular order:

	Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Pattern	Origin	Material	
<i>an</i>			<i>old</i>			<i>checked</i>			<i>coat</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>loyal</i>	<i>big</i>					<i>German</i>		<i>dog</i>
<i>a</i>				<i>round</i>	<i>clear</i>			<i>plastic</i>	<i>dining table</i>

### Exercise 1

DRILL

Rearrange the words and write the sentences.

1. green / bought / dad / car / modern / a / French / .

Dad bought a modern green French car.



2. eating / her / fish / does / fresh / cat / local / love / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Korean / a / popular / is / BCD / boy band / very / .

\_\_\_\_\_

4. table / living room / there is / oval / in / white / the / an / wooden / .

\_\_\_\_\_



5. expensive / riding / pink / Jenny / brand new / is / an / motor scooter / ?

\_\_\_\_\_



6. made / purse / brown / my / sister / leather / a / rectangular / elder / .

\_\_\_\_\_

## PART 2 Adjectives ending in *-ing* or *-ed*

Adjectives	Functions	Examples
<b>-ing</b>	To describe a quality	The war film is <b>frightening</b> .
<b>-ed</b>	To describe a feeling	We are <b>frightened</b> by the gunfight scene.

<b>-ing adjectives</b>	<b>-ed adjectives</b>
This film is <b>boring</b> .	Lily was <b>bored</b> with watching the film.
I read an <b>amusing</b> book.	I was <b>amused</b> at the story.
My boss's singing is <b>disappointing</b> .	I was <b>disappointed</b> at his voice.
The view was <b>fascinating</b> .	I was <b>fascinated</b> by the scenery.
The issue is <b>worrying</b> .	She is <b>worried</b> about the new policy.
It was a <b>tiring</b> journey.	Sam got <b>tired</b> from the long walk.
Their behaviour was <b>embarrassing</b> .	Their father was <b>embarrassed</b> by what they did.
Tim is <b>annoying</b> . He always asks <b>annoying</b> questions.	I was <b>annoyed</b> by his questions.



### Exercise 2.1

Complete the sentences by underlining the correct answers.

- Mr Grant's maths lessons are ( boring / bored ). No students listen to him.
- We are ( delighting / delighted ) to have you at our wedding.
- These signs are ( confused / confusing ). We can't find the way out.
- People are ( annoying / annoyed ) by the stormy weather.
- Leo was ( amused / amusing ) by the stand-up comedy.
- Uncle Tom told me lots of ( interesting / interested ) stories.
- It is ( surprising / surprised ) to see my lazy brother study today.
- The audience was ( shocking / shocked ) at the artist's daring performance.



### Exercise 2.2

Archie is writing a diary entry. Complete the entry using the correct form of the given words.

tropical   excite   ~~amaze~~   delight   lazy   huge   frighten   furry   exhaust   relax

7th June 20XX

Sunny

Jane, Ron and I went to Ocean Park today. The experience was (1) amazing!

First, we visited an aquarium. There were a lot of interesting (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ fish.

Then, we saw the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pandas. They looked (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and

(6) \_\_\_\_\_. I took photos of them. After that, Ron and I took several

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ thrill rides. Jane didn't join us because she was (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

Although we were all (9) \_\_\_\_\_, we were (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that we spent the day there.



### PART 3 Comparative and superlative adjectives

We use comparative adjectives with *than* to compare two units (e.g. people or places).

The tram is *slower than* the MTR.

We use superlative adjectives with *the* to compare three or more units.

The International Commerce Centre is *the tallest* building in Hong Kong.

We form comparative and superlative adjectives in the following ways:

Situations	Comparatives	Superlatives
Short adjectives	+ <i>er</i> <i>short</i> → <i>shorter</i>	+ <i>est</i> <i>short</i> → <i>shortest</i>
Short adjectives ending in -e	+ <i>r</i> <i>fine</i> → <i>finer</i>	+ <i>st</i> <i>fine</i> → <i>finest</i>
Short adjectives ending in a vowel + a consonant	Final consonant x 2 + <i>er</i> <i>hot</i> → <i>hotter</i>	Final consonant x 2 + <i>est</i> <i>hot</i> → <i>hottest</i>
Short adjectives ending in a consonant + -y	<i>y</i> + <i>ier</i> <i>happy</i> → <i>happier</i>	<i>y</i> + <i>iest</i> <i>happy</i> → <i>happiest</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long adjectives with three or more syllables</li> <li>Adjectives ending in <i>-ful</i>, <i>-less</i>, <i>-ing</i> or <i>-ed</i></li> </ul>	+ <i>more</i> / <i>less</i> <i>expensive</i> → <i>more expensive</i> <i>careful</i> → <i>less careful</i>	+ <i>most</i> / <i>least</i> <i>valuable</i> → <i>most valuable</i> <i>thrilling</i> → <i>least thrilling</i>
Irregular adjectives	Change the whole word <i>good</i> → <i>better</i> <i>bad</i> → <i>worse</i>	Change the whole word <i>good</i> → <i>best</i> <i>bad</i> → <i>worst</i>



#### Exercise 3.1

Complete the sentences using the comparative or superlative form of the given words.

- Rosie's diet is \_\_\_\_\_ healthier than \_\_\_\_\_ (healthy) Jack's. She eats more vegetables and fruit.
- To me, doing homework is \_\_\_\_\_ (favourite) part of school. I always want to delay it.
- The tickets of this airline are \_\_\_\_\_ (cheap) of all. Let's get them!
- Steve eats very little. He is \_\_\_\_\_ (thin) his sister.
- Alice's dog is \_\_\_\_\_ (gentle) Sam's. It seldom barks.
- The Nile River is \_\_\_\_\_ (long) the Amazon River.
- My cousin has \_\_\_\_\_ (lovely) dimples I've ever seen.
- Julian is \_\_\_\_\_ (careful) Amy. He often makes mistakes.
- Yellowstone National Park has \_\_\_\_\_ (beautiful) scenery in the western US.
- 'Your smartphone addiction has got \_\_\_\_\_ (bad),' Mum said to Celia.





### Exercise 3.2

Max is reading a short story. Complete the story using the comparative or superlative form of the given words.

interested    bold    far    dazzling    shiny    serious    unforgettable    good

#### Chase Your Dreams

The first time Sam watched an artificial star-filled sky in the Space Museum, he was amazed. The light pollution in Hong Kong is (1) more serious than that in many other places. It blocks out most of the stars all year round. Sam always hoped he could gaze at a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ night sky.

After studying astronomy at university, Sam became even (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in stars. He wanted to go to Chile, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ destination for stargazing. At first, the idea of travelling (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 3,000 km from home put him off. But years later, he got fed up with his job. He made (6) \_\_\_\_\_ move in his life—quitting his job and heading for Chile.

‘The stars here seem (7) \_\_\_\_\_ those in other places,’ he said to himself when he finally looked into the telescope in Chile. ‘It’s going to be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ day in my life!’



### Exercise 3.3

James is writing an article. There are some mistakes. Underline the mistakes and write the correct words in the spaces provided.

#### How amazing is the Amazon rainforest?

The Amazon is the big rainforest in the world. Its tropical rainforests are bigger then those of the Congo Basin.

The Amazon River flows through the forest. It is deeper and long. Scientists are arguing if it is the world longest river. Many of them believe that the Amazon is the longer, as the volume of water it discharges is great than that of any other rivers.



The Amazon rainforest also has the larger population of indigenous forest people in the world. You may find it surprised when you learn about the diversity of the tribes—there are over 400 of them! We are also intrigue by the rich biodiversity of the rainforest. There are more species of plants and animals than any other place on earth.



While we are fascinating by the beauty and importance of the forest, we should do more to protect it from damage human activities.

1. biggest
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_



#### More to take away

indigenous (adj.) = native

intrigue (v.) = to interest someone a lot, especially by being unusual

# Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme: Media and publications

You are writing a review of a pop album. Complete the review using the given phrases and adjectives. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the given words in brackets.

live a life in a city **stressful**<sup>1</sup> **slow**  
 I heard a voice **young** **beautiful**  
 the song is on the album<sup>2</sup> of a singer-songwriter<sup>3</sup> **popular**<sup>4</sup> **British** **latest**  
 she sings in front of a piano in the music video **wooden** **classic**  
 Lea worked with the producer David Murphy **award-winning**<sup>5</sup> **senior**

Words by  
Theme



## *Slow Down*—Lea Baker's way to see life



After a long day at school, I walked to a bus stop in Causeway Bay. (1) I heard a beautiful young voice from the giant TV screen nearby. I found it incredibly (2) relaxing (relax). (3) —Lea Baker.

Lea's new album, *Slow Down*, is finally out three years after her last one.

In this album, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and the brilliant sound engineer<sup>6</sup> Thomas Harvey.

Lea made an album with the same crew<sup>7</sup> about five years ago. This time, the team's production is even (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (good) that of last time.

Lea released the collection's first single<sup>8</sup>, 'Meander Around', earlier this month. She sings about how we can (6) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ over an acoustic guitar—'Staring at the clouds in the sky / Adapting to the slow life'. We usually think that slow living is impossible in a city. Lea tells us otherwise.

The next song 'Enjoy the Little Things' is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (personal) the first one. It is about her grandmother's advice. 'Embrace the little moments of each day, my dear.

Worries will never get in the way,' (8) \_\_\_\_\_

The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (powerful) and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (memorable) melody keeps me involved.

All in all, Lea's *Slow Down* is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (boring) pop album this year. It shows her (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (fascinate) talent. Lea has proved to be a good singer-songwriter.



Adjectives give information about nouns. They help convey messages in a more detailed way.

- The **elegant little black** dress is an iconic design. (order of adjectives)
- The football team suffered a **disappointing** defeat in the final yesterday. Their coach was deeply **disappointed**. (-ing and -ed adjectives)
- The garden tended by Mrs Spade is **prettier than** that by Mrs Davis. (comparative adjective)
- **The oldest** known pyramid in Egypt is the Pyramid of Djoser. (superlative adjective)

## Version 1

Isabella is writing a proposal for a jazz festival. Read the proposal and pay attention to the underlined parts.



### Proposal on *Taste of Jazz Festival*



#### Details

Dates: 9–11 July 20XX

Venue: The Fringe Club

Target audience: the public

#### Introduction

(1) Jazz has its roots in cultural and musical expressions. (2) It now enjoys popularity. (3) Jazz is unusual because the musicians often make up the music when they are playing. (4) Although a lot of music lovers are enchanting by jazz, this genre of music is not very well-known in Hong Kong. A three-day festival is therefore proposed to promote this fascinating music style.

#### Purposes

The festival encourages the locals to appreciate jazz. (5) Participants would experience the music in a relax and origin way. (6) Jazz musicians need opportunities to showcase their talent at the event. (7) The festival provides them with a platform for encounters.

#### Programmes

(8) There will be concerts and workshops in the festival. (9) Festivalgoers can taste a wide selection of cuisine or grab a drink at the food bazaar. Also, they can learn how to play melodies at the workshops. Beginners are also welcome.

#### Venue

(10) We will hold the festival at The Fringe Club, a building on Hong Kong Island. The venue allows the artists to get up close with the spectators so that (11) their experience is engaging then that in a large hall.



#### More to take away

A proposal is a formal plan suggested for high-ranking people's consideration to carry out an idea.

## Version 2

Rewrite the underlined parts in Version 1 based on the instructions.



### Proposal on *Taste of Jazz Festival*



#### Details

Dates: 9–11 July 20XX

Venue: The Fringe Club

Target audience: the public

#### Introduction

(1) Jazz has its roots in West African cultural and musical expressions. (add *West African*) (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (add *global*) (3) \_\_\_\_\_

(replace one word with *unique*) (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (correct the wrong word), this genre of music is not very well-known  
 in Hong Kong. A three-day festival is therefore proposed to promote this fascinating music style.

#### Purposes

The festival encourages the locals to appreciate jazz. (5) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (correct the wrong words) (6) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (add *local, young* and *gifted*) need opportunities to showcase their  
 talent at the event. (7) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (add *inspiring* in superlative form)

#### Programmes

(8) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (add *educational* and *live*) (9) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (add *refresh* and *tempt* in  
 adjective forms) Also, they can learn how to play melodies at the workshops. Beginners are also welcome.

#### Venue

(10) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (add *magnificent* and *historic*)  
 The venue allows the artists to get up close with the spectators so that (11) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (correct the mistakes).



#### Brain Breaks

What is the favourite toast spread for jazz musicians?



Answer: jam