

## The Adjective

**12c.** An *adjective* is a word that is used to modify a noun or a pronoun.

An adjective tells *what kind, which one, or how many*.

**EXAMPLES** narrow road, helpful teacher, one-act play  
that person, African American holiday, one-hundredth anniversary  
several chores, fewer errors, twenty-five minutes

The most frequently used adjectives are *a, an,* and *the*. These words are usually called *articles*.

**EXERCISE** Underline the adjectives in the following sentences. Then, circle the articles.

**Example 1.** Seven club members stayed for the entire meeting.

1. After the hot, humid summer, we welcomed the cool, crisp autumn days.
2. The driving test requires a thorough understanding of the various traffic signs.
3. The mayor surprised everyone at the winter carnival by arriving in a horse-drawn sleigh.
4. Completing these math projects took many hours.
5. The most important contest in professional football is the annual Super Bowl game.
6. Helena placed a bouquet of fresh flowers in a vase on the oak table.
7. The curious sightseers looked forward to exploring the mysterious cavern.
8. A young eagle soared swiftly beyond the billowy, snow-white clouds.
9. The new karate instructor is a skillful teacher.
10. In the nest were three tiny newborn robins.

Some words may be used as either pronouns or adjectives. For example, *this, that, these,* and *those* are called *demonstrative pronouns* when they take the place of nouns or other pronouns and are called *demonstrative adjectives* when they modify nouns or pronouns.

**PRONOUN** That is my sister's guitar.

**ADJECTIVE** That guitar belongs to my sister.

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, identify the part of speech of the underlined word by writing above the word *PRO* for *pronoun* or *ADJ* for *adjective*.

**Example 1.** Danielle has <sup>ADJ</sup> many pets.

1. These fajitas certainly are spicy!
2. These are the spiciest fajitas I have ever tasted!
3. Most of the ninth-graders participated in the readathon.
4. Most ninth-graders participated in the readathon.
5. Which ice sculpture did you create?
6. Which of the ice sculptures did you create?
7. This is one of my favorite songs.
8. Do you like this song?

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, identify the part of speech of the underlined word or word group by writing above it *N* for *noun* or *ADJ* for *adjective*.

**Example 1.** For dinner, Dad prepared a <sup>ADJ</sup>chicken casserole.

1. Geraldo is the sports reporter for the school newspaper.
2. Geraldo plays two sports at school: baseball and field hockey.
3. The students are busily working on their science projects.
4. Which course in science are you taking this year?
5. I took this snapshot of the New York City skyline.
6. Albany, not New York City, is the capital of New York.
7. For most of the summer, I worked at a local farmers' market.
8. Did you have a summer job?
9. The library stays open until 8:00 P.M.
10. I need to return these library books today.

**EXERCISE** Underline the adjectives in the following sentences. Do not include *a*, *an*, and *the*. Then, draw an arrow from each underlined adjective to the word it modifies.

**Example 1.** For many reasons, I think that movie is great.

1. The movie is set in the West during the latter part of the nineteenth century.
2. John J. Dunbar, the main character, is a Civil War veteran.
3. Dunbar had been an army lieutenant.
4. The Lakota Sioux, cautious and apprehensive, eventually befriend Dunbar.
5. The friendly lieutenant maintains a peaceful relationship with the Lakota Sioux.
6. In the beginning some minor problems do arise.
7. A greater conflict occurs when other soldiers arrive.
8. Kevin Costner both starred in and directed this powerful film.
9. Costner is not only a talented actor but also a skilled director.
10. Costner was especially careful about presenting an accurate picture of the Lakota Sioux.