

Year 5

Adjectives Worksheet 1

Key Rules

- An adjective is a describing word that modifies a noun.
- Two adjectives before the same noun must be separated by a comma: the dark, silent forest ✓
- Choose precise synonyms — replace "nice", "big", "happy" with more powerful words.
- Adjectives go before the noun: the fluffy cat ✓ the cat fluffy ✗
- An expanded noun phrase adds adjectives (and often a prepositional phrase) to a noun: the crumbling, ivy-covered tower above the valley

Section A — Underline the Adjectives

Underline all the adjectives in each sentence. The number of adjectives is shown in brackets.

1. The fierce, territorial wolf guarded its snowy den through the bitter night. (4)
2. A peculiar smell drifted from the cramped, cluttered laboratory at the end of the corridor. (3)
3. The fragile glass figurine stood on a dusty shelf beside the crumbling fireplace. (3)
4. She gave a hesitant smile and stepped onto the creaking, unsteady bridge above the rushing river. (4)
5. The sleek, aerodynamic racing car disappeared around the sharp bend in a blur of scarlet. (4)

Section B — Fix the Comma

Each sentence is missing a comma between two adjectives. Rewrite the sentence correctly on the line below.

1. The towering jagged cliffs stretched along the entire coastline.

2. She carried a battered leather suitcase onto the crowded platform.

3. It was a warm peaceful evening and the last light faded slowly over the distant hills.

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4. The nervous trembling rabbit froze at the edge of the open field.

5. He found a worn leather-bound journal hidden beneath a loose floorboard in the dusty attic.

Section C — Choose the Best Word

Each sentence contains a weak adjective shown in [square brackets]. Underline the strongest replacement.

1. The [big] wave crashed against the harbour wall and sent spray across the road.

- A) large
- B) colossal
- C) biggish
- D) quite big

2. It was a [nice] day, so they decided to walk along the canal path.

- A) okay
- B) fine
- C) glorious
- D) not bad

3. The crowd were [happy] when the final whistle confirmed their team had won.

- A) pleased
- B) glad
- C) content
- D) ecstatic

4. The [scared] passengers gripped their seats as the plane hit the turbulence.

- A) worried
- B) petrified
- C) nervous
- D) uneasy

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5. The [tired] explorer barely had the energy to pitch her tent before darkness fell.
- A) drowsy
 - B) sleepy
 - C) haggard
 - D) not awake

Section D — Spot the Rule

Underline the letter of the correct or best answer for each question.

1. Which sentence uses an expanded noun phrase with correct punctuation?
 - A) The vast empty desert stretched beyond the horizon.
 - B) The vast, empty desert stretched beyond the horizon.
 - C) The, vast empty desert stretched beyond the horizon.
 - D) The vast empty, desert stretched beyond the horizon.
2. Which expanded noun phrase uses the most precise vocabulary?
 - A) The nice, big house at the end of the lane
 - B) The large, good house at the end of the lane
 - C) The imposing, elegant house at the end of the lane
 - D) The tall, okay house at the end of the lane
3. Which expanded noun phrase correctly includes a prepositional phrase?
 - A) The ancient, crumbling tower
 - B) The very old tower indeed
 - C) The ancient, crumbling tower above the silent valley
 - D) The tower which was ancient and crumbling
4. Which sentence contains an adjective used incorrectly?
 - A) The exhausted runner crossed the finish line.
 - B) The runner crossed the line exhausted.
 - C) The runner crossed exhausted the line.
 - D) Exhausted, the runner crossed the finish line.

5. Complete the expanded noun phrase: "the _____, _____ lighthouse at the edge of the cliff"

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- A) tall and white
- B) tall, white
- C) very tall, white
- D) tall white

Section E — SATs-Style Questions

Underline the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which word in this sentence is NOT an adjective? "The colossal, ancient fortress stood on a jagged cliff."
 - A) colossal
 - B) ancient
 - C) stood
 - D) jagged
2. How many adjectives are in this sentence? "The weary, dishevelled traveller collapsed onto the narrow wooden bench."
 - A) Two
 - B) Three
 - C) Four
 - D) Five
3. Which sentence would score highest in a Year 5 writing assessment?
 - A) The cat sat on the mat.
 - B) The big, black cat sat on the mat quickly.
 - C) The sleek, black cat curled silently onto the worn hearthrug.
 - D) The cat that was very big and black sat down on the mat.
4. Which sentence has the comma in the correct position?
 - A) The bitter cold, wind swept across the frozen lake.
 - B) The bitter, cold wind swept across the frozen lake.
 - C) The, bitter cold wind swept across the frozen lake.
 - D) The bitter cold wind, swept across the frozen lake.

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5. Which word is the most precise replacement for "bad" in: "The bad news arrived early on Monday morning"?
- A) unfortunate
 - B) not good
 - C) unpleasant
 - D) devastating
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