

Year 6

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 desolate, crumbling tower ✓
- Choose precise synonyms — never use "nice", "big", "bad", "happy" or "scared" if a stronger word exists.
- Adjectives go before the noun (or after a linking verb): the relentless storm ✓ the storm relentless X
- An expanded noun phrase adds adjectives and a prepositional phrase to a noun:
the gaunt, hollow-eyed prisoner beneath the flickering light

Section A — Underline the Adjectives

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

1. The relentless, churning sea battered the desolate lighthouse all through the wintry night. (4)
2. A faint, acrid smell drifted from the abandoned chemical plant on the outskirts of the industrial town. (4)
3. The intricate mosaic was discovered beneath a thick layer of pale, powdery dust. (4)
4. She delivered a composed, authoritative speech that silenced the restless crowd. (3)
5. The gaunt, hollow-eyed prisoner blinked in the sudden, blinding light of the courtyard. (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 crumbling precarious bridge swayed dangerously above the swollen river.

2. She wore an elegant understated gown that drew admiring glances from every guest.

3. A low persistent hum filled the vaulted chamber beneath the ancient cathedral.

4. The shrewd calculating diplomat chose every word with meticulous precision.

5. An eerie oppressive silence had settled over the deserted village by nightfall.

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Section C — Choose the Best Word

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

1. The [big] statue dominated the entrance to the ancient city.
 - A) large
 - B) enormous
 - C) sizeable
 - D) quite big

2. The courtroom fell silent as the judge delivered his [bad] verdict.
 - A) unfair
 - B) not good
 - C) damning
 - D) unpleasant

3. The explorers were [happy] to discover fresh water in the valley below.
 - A) pleased
 - B) glad
 - C) reassured
 - D) elated

4. The [scared] witness struggled to keep her voice steady during cross-examination.
 - A) nervous
 - B) frightened
 - C) terrified
 - D) worried

5. The [tired] surgeon had been on her feet for fourteen consecutive hours.
 - A) drowsy
 - B) exhausted
 - C) not awake
 - D) sleepy

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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 barren tundra offered no shelter from the arctic wind.
 - B) The vast, barren tundra offered no shelter from the arctic wind.
 - C) The, vast barren tundra offered no shelter from the arctic wind.
 - D) The vast barren, tundra offered no shelter from the arctic wind.

2. Which expanded noun phrase would score highest in a Year 6 writing assessment?
 - A) The nice, big mansion at the edge of town
 - B) The large, good mansion at the edge of town
 - C) The imposing, dilapidated mansion at the edge of town
 - D) The tall, okay mansion at the edge of town

3. Which sentence contains an adjective used in the wrong position?
 - A) The exhausted diplomat left the chamber.
 - B) Exhausted, the diplomat left the chamber.
 - C) The diplomat exhausted left the chamber.
 - D) The diplomat left the chamber, exhausted.

4. Which expanded noun phrase correctly includes both a prepositional phrase and two adjectives with correct punctuation?
 - A) The narrow winding path through the ancient woodland
 - B) The narrow, winding path through the ancient woodland
 - C) The, narrow winding path through the ancient woodland
 - D) The narrow, winding, path through the ancient woodland

5. Complete the expanded noun phrase: "the _____, _____ cathedral at the heart of the medieval city"
 - A) tall and gothic
 - B) very tall, gothic
 - C) tall, gothic
 - D) tall gothic

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Section E — SATs-Style Questions

Underline the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which word in this sentence is NOT an adjective? "The relentless wind carved a sinuous path through the brittle grass."
 - A) relentless
 - B) sinuous
 - C) carved
 - D) brittle

2. How many adjectives are in this sentence? "The pale, trembling clerk handed the formidable inspector a crumpled document."
 - A) Three
 - B) Four
 - C) Five
 - D) Six

3. Which sentence demonstrates the most controlled, precise use of adjectives for Year 6 writing?
 - A) The old, bad man sat on the cold, hard chair.
 - B) The very old and very scary man sat slowly on the uncomfortable chair.
 - C) The gaunt, hollow-eyed magistrate lowered himself into the carved oak chair.
 - D) The man who was old and scary sat on a chair that was hard and cold.

4. Which sentence places the comma correctly between two adjectives?
 - A) The bitter icy, blast swept across the exposed ridge.
 - B) The bitter, icy blast swept across the exposed ridge.
 - C) The, bitter icy blast swept across the exposed ridge.
 - D) The bitter icy blast, swept across the exposed ridge.

5. Which word is the most precise and powerful replacement for "nice" in: "The delegates reached a nice agreement after three days of talks"?
 - A) reasonable
 - B) good
 - C) landmark
 - D) adequate