

# BASIC ADJECTIVE POSITION

A1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Describe people and things with adjectives.

## 1. READ: A new bike

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar forms.

**Eva:** Is that your **new bike**, Sam?  
**Sam:** Yes. It's **blue**. Do you like it?  
**Eva:** It's **nice**. Is it heavy?  
**Sam:** No, it's quite **light**. I can carry it upstairs.  
**Eva:** That's useful. My bike is **old** and **heavy**.  
**Sam:** Would you like to try mine?

## 2. GRAMMAR: Before a noun or after be

An adjective describes a person or thing. Put it before a noun or after be.

| Position / rule            | Pattern                 | Example             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Before a noun              | adjective + noun        | a small house       |
| After be                   | noun + be + adjective   | The house is small. |
| No plural -s on adjectives | adjective + plural noun | two small houses    |

Use **a red bag**, not a bag red. Use **The bag is red** after be.

Adjectives do not change for plurals: **a new book; two new books**.

Choose a / an by the next sound: **a bag; an old bag**.

## A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct phrase. The example answer is bold: **a small bag** / a bag small.

1. a red coat / a coat red
2. The room is big. / The room big is.
3. two new books / two news books
4. an old house / a house old
5. a blue chair / a chair blue
6. The chairs are small. / The chairs are smalls.
7. a friendly teacher / a teacher friendly
8. three long streets / three longs streets

Read each answer aloud. Check the subject, the noun or the clue.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

## B. COMPLETE: My room

Choose the correct word or phrase in brackets for each gap.

My room is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (small / a small), but I like it. There is (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(a blue desk / a desk blue) by the window.

The desk is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (new / a new). There are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (two  
red chairs / two reds chairs) next to it.

I've got (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (an old lamp / a lamp old). It is (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (beautiful  
/ a beautiful).

There are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (some nice pictures / some nices pictures) on the wall.

My room is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (quiet / a quiet), so I can study there.

## C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Put the words in order.

Example: a / bag / red **a red bag**

1. an / house / old

2. two / books / new

3-4: Rewrite as a sentence with be. Example: a blue bag **The bag is blue.**

3. a small room

4. heavy bags

## D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three true sentences describing things around you. Use adjectives before nouns and after be.

Example: **I have a blue bag. My bag is small. My books are new.**

## E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

1. Choose an object. Describe it without naming it.

Example: **It's small. It's black. It's on my desk.**

2. Your partner guesses. **Is it your phone?** Then swap roles.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

## 1. READ: A new bike

Sample target language from the conversation:

**Eva:** Is that your **new bike**, Sam?

**Sam:** Yes. It's **blue**. Do you like it?

**Eva:** It's **nice**. Is it heavy?

**Sam:** No, it's quite **light**. I can carry it upstairs.

**Eva:** That's useful. My bike is **old** and **heavy**.

## A. CHOOSE

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. a red coat         | 2. The room is big.      |
| 3. two new books      | 4. an old house          |
| 5. a blue chair       | 6. The chairs are small. |
| 7. a friendly teacher | 8. three long streets    |

## B. COMPLETE: My room

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. small              | 2. a blue desk    |
| 3. new                | 4. two red chairs |
| 5. an old lamp        | 6. beautiful      |
| 7. some nice pictures | 8. quiet          |

## C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. an old house
2. two new books
3. The room is small.
4. The bags are heavy.

## D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

**Sample:** I have a blue bag. My bag is small. My books are new.

**Teacher note:** C4 focuses on plural agreement: the bags are heavy. The bags are heavy and There are three heavy bags are different structures.