

## LUC WRITING CENTER – “ABOUT ADJECTIVES”

**Adjectives** are parts of speech *modifying, or giving more information about, nouns*. Whereas a noun refers to a person, place, or thing, adjectives *describe the person, place, or thing being discussed, and usually appear in front of nouns*. Remember that adjectives can describe all sensory information such as *color, temperature, and appearance*. They tell you how something looks, how it tastes, smells, and feels. Adjectives give you further details *about what is happening in a situation*.

Consider the difference between the following sentences:

1. **Look, an animal is walking this way!**
2. **Look, a ferocious, wild animal is walking this way!**

After hearing the first sentence, you might not be alarmed, or especially nervous that an animal of some kind was coming towards you. But once you hear about *the ferocious, wild nature or appearance* of the animal, you obviously would feel more concern for your safety.

a) Find the difference between the following sentences by underlining the adjectives:

1. **During my drive this morning I was blinded by the sun.**
2. **During my long, lonely drive this spring morning I was blinded by the burning, yellow sun.**

*Questions:* Which sentence contains more descriptive information about the nouns (drive) (morning) (sun)? Do the adjectives help you understand more about the action that occurred in the more descriptive sentence?

*Article Usage Tips:* If your adjective begins with a **vowel** sound, you need to use the article “**an**” instead of “**a**.” If your adjective begins with a **consonant**, you need to use the article “**a**” instead of “**an**.”<sup>1</sup>

b) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences to make the meaning clearer, and provide more description concerning the people and things mentioned.

1. **I can see why you bought that \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ house!**
2. **While I walked through the \_\_\_\_\_ town, I spied a/an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ friend waving at me.**
3. **Are you looking for a/an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ car? Or do you want a/an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ truck?**

Draw from this list of common adjectives if you need help filling in the blanks:

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<sup>1</sup> See the worksheets on “Articles” for more information.

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old, young, big, little, stout, thin, black, purple, angry, helpful, wonderful, obnoxious, indecent, loud, quiet, busy, beautiful, ugly, eloquent, sweet, sour, rough, smooth, cold, hot, fresh, rotten, smooth, rough, painful, gentle, rich, poor, friendly, rude, round, pointed, circular, straight, hollow, full, clean, dirty, long, short, fuzzy, good, bad, nasty, decent

Answers to a)

1. During my drive this morning I was blinded by the sun.
2. During my long, lonely drive this spring morning I was blinded by the burning, yellow sun.

Possible Answers to b):

1. I can see why you bought that beautiful, quiet house!
2. While I walked through the busy town, I spied an old friend waving at me.
3. Are you looking for a little, black car? Or do you want a big, purple truck?

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