

The Order of Modifiers

FORM:

Modifiers are words that we add before a noun to provide more information and to make a noun phrase. Modifiers can be determiners (quantifiers, articles, possessive pronouns, demonstratives), intensifiers, adjectives or other nouns.

USE:

There is an order in which the modifiers are placed according to their category. You usually only use one determiner within a noun phrase.

I-----Determiners-----I

Quantifiers Articles Possessive Pronouns Demonstrative Pronouns Intensifiers Adjectives Nouns

<i>Some</i>	<i>a, an</i>	<i>my</i>	<i>this</i>	<i>really</i>	<i>see below</i>	<i>spring</i>
<i>Many</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>very</i>		<i>flower</i>

Examples:

- *I need some really good ideas for this project.*
- *It was a wonderful spring day.*

A noun can be modified by more than one adjective. We don't usually use more than two or three adjectives at the most. Some of the groups of adjectives can be grouped into adjectives of appearance and adjectives of origin. Below is the usual word order of adjectives. Adjectives are never plural in English.

**Opinion/
Evaluation**
attractive
special

I-----Appearance-----I

Size	Shape	Condition	Age	Colour
huge	oval	pale	young	purple
tiny	triangular	happy	teenaged	yellow

I-----Origin-----I

Geographical	Material	Reference
South African	cotton	educational
Peruvian	steel	office

Examples:

- *Canada is a young northern country.*
- *He was dating an attractive European woman.*

In these sentences the MODIFIERS are in a random order. Please put them in their proper order.
Example: This is not a / an (office, traditional) _____ building.
This is not a / ~~a~~ traditional office building.

1. He is (French, a, really, tall) _____ soldier.
2. She is (British, mystery, a, well-known) _____ novelist.
3. Today, I'm wearing (cotton, favourite, my, old) _____ shirt.
4. We work in (concrete, huge, a, office) _____ building.
5. She stood out from the crowd with (pink, her, silk) _____ dress.
6. A beach ball is (big, round) _____ and _____.
7. He was (lonely, a/an, short, unattractive) _____ man, but (brilliant, a) _____ artist.
8. Poverty is (social, a, stubborn) _____ problem.
9. A hockey puck is (black, round, a, small) _____ piece of rubber.
10. That is such (dirty, oil, a, old) _____ filter. Change it!
11. It's a bit cool this morning. I think I'll put on (black, my, new, wool) _____ sweater.
12. He owns (Belgian, strong, two, work) _____ horses.
13. Their house has (old, lovely, wooden) _____ floors.
14. (fertile, Italian, the, wine) _____ vineyards are the best in the world.

Put the ADJECTIVES and NOUNS in the correct order.

1. I ate some _____ food last night.
a. spicy b. delicious c. Thai
2. “Just walk down the _____ road.”
a. narrow b. long c. dirt
3. She sold her _____ company.
a. successful b. computer c. Norwegian
4. I can’t find my _____ belt.
a. leather b. brown c. thin
5. I’d love to hear a / an _____ story.
a. wonderful b. old c. Native American
6. Paris is a / an _____ city.
a. intriguing b. historical c. romantic
7. The author is a/an _____ writer.
a. romance b. prolific c. well-known
8. Ice hockey is a/an _____ sport.
a. fast-paced b. violent c. exciting
9. My birthday cake was a _____ cake.
a. chocolate b. delicious c. sponge