



Professional Communication Skills

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Adjectives

- **Adjectives**
 - Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns.
 - Although adjectives usually precede the words they modify, they may follow them and be separated by a form of the verb *be* or a substitute verb such as *seems* or *feels*.



Adjectives

- **Examples of adjectives:**
 - The *beautiful* rose
 - The rose is *beautiful*
 - The rose looks *beautiful*
- **Two important types of adjectives:**
 - Determiners
 - Participial adjectives



Adjectives

- **Determiners**
 - These are special adjectives that identify the noun being described or that specify the quantity of the noun. They include demonstrative adjectives, possessive adjectives, and quantifiers, as well as articles.



Adjectives

- **Demonstrative Adjectives**
 - These are special adjectives or determiners used to identify or express the relative position of a noun in time or space. A demonstrative adjective comes before all other adjectives in the noun phrase. Some common demonstrative adjectives are *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*.



Adjectives

- **Demonstrative Adjectives**
 - Use *this/that* with singular nouns and *these/those* with plural nouns.
 - **Examples of demonstrative adjectives:**
 - The results of research done with broadband antennas indicate a need for *these* antennas in certain applications.
 - Furthermore, *this* research revealed that *these* antennas have unlimited potential for use in future telecommunication systems.



Adjectives

- **Demonstrative Adjectives**
- You can sometimes use demonstrative adjectives as demonstrative pronouns.
 - *This* research is tedious. [demonstrative adjective]
 - *This* is tedious. [demonstrative pronoun]



Adjectives

- **Possessive Adjectives (Pronouns)**
- Possessive adjectives are special adjectives or determiners used to express possession of a noun; they precede all other elements in a noun phrase. If you use possessive adjectives, you do not need articles.
 - *My* testbed has a problem.
 - *The* testbed has a problem.



Adjectives

- **Possessive Adjectives (Pronouns)**
- Choose a possessive adjective that agrees in person, number, and gender with the possessor noun, not the noun being possessed.
 - Austin Palmer, son of Gail Palmer, was born on September 11, 1971, in Ohio. *His* mother is from Virginia.
 - The possessive adjective *his* agrees with the gender of the possessor, *Austin Palmer*.



Adjectives

- **Quantifiers**
- Quantifiers are determiners used to express the quantity of the noun being described. Like possessive adjectives, quantifiers usually precede all other elements in a noun phrase.
 - *All* the undergraduate students in electrical engineering are required to use computers.



Adjectives

▪ Quantifiers

- Some common quantifiers are *most, much, any, no, some, and few*.
 - *Most* people have a hard time understanding the specifics of Maxwell's equations.
- Choose a quantifier that is appropriate for the noun.
- In general, do not use articles before quantifiers.



Adjectives

▪ Quantifiers

- Articles and demonstrative adjectives can be used before the quantifiers *few* and *little*.
 - A *few* problems in optics can only be solved numerically.
 - *This little* mistake in measuring the current can have devastating results.



Adjectives

- **Participial Adjectives**
- A participial adjective is formed by adding to the base form of the verb either the present participial ending *-ing* or, unless the verb is irregular, the past participial ending *-ed*.
 - In quantum electronics, a *tunneling* electron is one that overcomes a potential energy barrier.
 - When two electrons come close to each other, the *resulting* electrical force causes them to repel.



Adjectives

- **Passive Participial Adjectives**
- Passive participial adjectives are formed from the past participles of verbs. They describe nouns that are receiving the effects of an action.
 - The information theory *being unknown* to them, electrical engineers in the mid-twentieth century were astonished by Shannon's research.



Adjectives

- **Comparative and Superlative Adjectives**
 - A comparative or superlative adjective is used to compare the degree of some quality of one item with the degree of the same quality in another item [comparative] or in multiple others [superlative]



Adjectives

- Adjectives can appear in the positive, comparative, or superlative degree.
- Examples of degree in adjectives:
 - **Strong** [positive] – base form – *robust*
 - **Stronger** [comparative] – used to compare two items – *more robust*
 - **Strongest** [superlative] – used to compare more than two items – *most robust*



Adjectives

▪ Comparative Adjectives

- The comparative is usually formed with an – *er* ending or the word *more* or *less*.
- We need to find a *better* solution to this problem.
- They used a *smaller* resistance for this part of the circuit.
- We need to give a *more appropriate* explanation of the terms we used in the formula.
- He will have to provide a *less hypothetical* approach to describe his views .



Adjectives

▪ Superlative Adjectives

- The superlative is usually formed with an – *est* ending or the word *most* or *least*.
- We used the *fastest* computer we could find to solve the equation.
- Unfortunately, it was not the *least* expensive machine.
- These are his *most prized* scientific readings information theory.