



Adjectives

- **Modifiers:** Modifiers are adjectives, or adverbs or clauses which act as adjectives that add information to other elements of a sentence. (Example: He listened attentively as his boss gave instructions in a stern voice. – “attentively” and “in a stern voice” describe actions in this sentence.)
- **Gradable Adjectives:** These are adjectives that can vary in intensity and which can be measured through the use of modifiers. (Example: very tall, rather hot, extremely angry)
- **Non-Gradable Adjectives:** Certain adjectives cannot be graded through the use of modifiers for one of three reasons: they are extremes, they are absolutes or they are classifying.
- **Extreme Adjectives:** These are adjectives used to describe strong emotions or conditions. (Examples: incensed, boiling, exhausted, miserable) Extreme adjectives only take certain modifiers. (Examples: absolutely incensed, completely exhausted, utterly miserable)
- **Absolute Adjectives:** These adjectives do not take modifiers. (Examples: dead, pregnant)
- **Classifying Adjectives:** These adjectives group experiences or emotions into groups and do not take modifiers. (Examples: nuclear, medical)