

# Grammar Practice

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## 10.4 Adjectives

### Key Information

An **adjective** is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun by limiting its meaning.

<b>old</b> horse	<b>leisurely</b> stroll
<b>second</b> class	<b>tragic</b> play
<b>federal</b> law	<b>some</b> money
<b>this</b> aim	<b>those</b> coats
<b>few</b> quarrels	

Possessive pronouns and nouns are considered adjectives because they modify nouns.

<b>our</b> teacher	<b>their</b> music
<b>Kim's</b> bike	

Most adjectives have different forms to indicate their degree of comparison.

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
good	better	best
rigid	more rigid	most rigid
high	higher	highest

**Articles** are the adjectives *a*, *an*, and *the*. *A* and *an* are called indefinite articles. *The* is called a definite article.

**Proper adjectives** are formed from proper nouns and begin with capital letters.

<b>African</b> continent	<b>Canadian</b> border
<b>Finnish</b> winters	<b>Japanese</b> cars

### ■ A. Identifying Adjectives

Underline each word that is used as an adjective in the sentences below. (Include articles and proper adjectives.)

1. The Sahel can support a small pastoral population.
2. Nomadic herders, who subsisted on marginal resources, followed rains north into drier areas during the rainy season and retreated to greener southern pastures during dry spells.
3. When the African nations gained their independence in the 1950s and 1960s, they began to receive foreign aid, which included new strains of many crops like cotton and peanuts that could tolerate a short season.
4. Agricultural production overran lands that were once pastures.
5. When agriculture strips the land of its protective vegetative cover, the relentless action of the wind can carry away the bare soil, and the desert advances.

### ■ B. Using Adjectives

On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the exercise below. Complete your paragraph by using an appropriate adjective from the words given below the exercise.

The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese philosopher Confucius lived from about 551 to about 497 B.C. This period was an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ time in Chinese history. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ barons caused continual wars. The weak (4) \_\_\_\_\_ government was unable to maintain peace. Confucius thought that China should try to recapture the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and prosperous order of the past. A famous saying of Confucius is "Learning without thought is fruitless labor; thought without learning is (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

quarrelsome    central    peaceful    highest    unquiet    unbiased    famous    perilous

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## 10.5 Adverbs

### Key Information

An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb by making its meaning more specific.

- Saul **carefully** arranged the flowers. (modifies verb *arranged*)
- Midori was **very** careful. (modifies adjective *careful*)
- Pavlik left **quite** hastily. (modifies adverb *hastily*)

Adverbs tell *when, where, how, and to what degree or to what extent.*

- They see her **often**. (*when*)
- Rob is asleep **downstairs**. (*where*)
- Rita drove **carefully**. (*how*)
- Anu **hardly** visits anymore. (*to what degree*)

**Negative adverbs** include the word *not*, the contraction *-n't*, or other negative words.

- The lawn is **scarcely** green.

### A. Identifying Adverbs

Underline the adverbs in the sentences below. Above the adverb write the word(s) each adverb modifies, and identify the part of speech of the word(s) modified by writing *V* (verb), *Adj.* (adjective), or *Adv.* (adverb). (The number of adverbs in each sentence is given in parentheses.)

1. Until the end of the nineteenth century, most New Englanders depended almost entirely on wood for their fuel needs. (2)
2. Meals were usually cooked with wood, and homes were ordinarily heated the same way. (2)
3. When gas, oil, and electricity became cheap and plentiful, they effectively replaced wood as the principal form of producing heat. (1)
4. Now, as fossil fuels are becoming more scarce, some people are again turning to fuels of the past. (3)
5. Evidently, wood is an exceedingly attractive alternative, for about half the homes in New England are already using wood for some of their heat. (3)

### B. Using Adverbs

In the sentences below, fill in each blank with the kind of adverb indicated in parentheses. Reread your completed sentences to make sure they make sense.

1. It \_\_\_\_\_ seemed impossible to watch a live broadcast from overseas. (when)
2. In 1964 Syncom III enabled Americans to see the Tokyo Olympics without actually being \_\_\_\_\_. (where)
3. \_\_\_\_\_, we have become quite familiar with global television and telephone transmissions that depend on satellites. (when)
4. Plans to expand the capabilities of satellites are going \_\_\_\_\_ well. (to what degree)
5. \_\_\_\_\_, viewers may be able to dial an area code on their television sets and select a program from Paris, Beijing, Sydney, or almost any other city. (when)

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## 10.6 Prepositions

### Key Information

A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to some other word in a sentence.

The child ran **across** the hall. (*Across* shows the relationship between *ran* and the *hall*.)

He was interrupted **during** his speech. (*During* expresses the time relationship between two events.)

The extra room is **for** guests. (*For* relates the noun *room* to the noun *guests*.)

A **compound preposition** is made up of more than one word.

They were late **because of** the weather.

Prepositions begin phrases that end with a noun or a pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**.

He passed the ball **over the defenders**. (*Defenders* is the object of *over*.)

### ■ Identifying Prepositions

Underline all the prepositions in the sentences below.

1. Traditions abound during the Chinese New Year festival.
2. There is a customary exchange of gifts.
3. A colorful parade winds through the streets.
4. After a sumptuous meal, fortune cookies are served.
5. Imagine that your cookie contains a fortune regarding your future.
6. Your fortune may promise love and happiness, among other things.
7. Besides predictions, proverbs or advice may be given.
8. "Success is within your grasp," one fortune might read.
9. Surprisingly, fortune cookies are not originally from China.
10. Most fortune cookies are made in the United States.
11. They were first produced in California in 1920.
12. Despite their origins, we still think of fortune cookies as Chinese treats.
13. How do the fortunes get into the cookies?
14. Freshly baked wafers move on a conveyor belt.
15. Workers take them off the belt by hand.
16. The hot wafer is then folded over a fortune.
17. It is bent around a rod by the time the wafer cools.
18. This process cannot safely be done without gloves.
19. Finally, the cookies are allowed to dry into the familiar shape.
20. Workers at one California factory fold 65,000 fortune cookies in a day.

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## 10.7–8 Conjunctions and Interjections

### Key Information

A **conjunction** is a word that joins single words or groups of words.

**Coordinating conjunctions** (*and, but, or, nor, for, yet*) and **correlative conjunctions**, which work in pairs, join words or groups of words that have equal grammatical weight in a sentence.

She hoped to go, **but** she could not.

**Neither** she **nor** he went.

**Subordinating conjunctions** join two clauses, or ideas, in such a way as to make one grammatically dependent upon the other. The clause that the subordinating conjunction introduces cannot stand by itself as a complete sentence.

She did not go **because** she did not have time.

**Conjunctive adverbs** are used to clarify the relationship between clauses of equal grammatical importance.

She had very little time; **therefore**, she did not go.

An **interjection** is a word or phrase that expresses emotion or exclamation. An interjection has no grammatical connection to other words.

**Oh**, she wanted to go.

### ■ Identifying Conjunctions and Interjections

Label each underlined word in the sentences below as *Coor. Conj.* (coordinating conjunction), *Corr. Conj.* (correlative conjunction), *Sub. Conj.* (subordinating conjunction), *Conj. Adv.* (conjunctive adverb), or *Inter.* (interjection).

1. The Maya lived in parts of present-day Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize.
2. Not only did the Maya develop an advanced form of writing, but also they made significant advances in mathematics and astronomy.
3. Since the Maya based their mathematical system on the number 20, instead of the number 10 as in our system, they counted somewhat differently.
4. They used a special symbol to represent zero; furthermore, mathematicians consider the zero one of the world's greatest inventions.
5. The Maya developed a 365-day calendar, divided into 18 months of 20 days and 5 days at year's end.
6. Because the Maya considered these last five days to be unlucky, they avoided any unnecessary work during this time.
7. The Maya used herbs to treat illnesses; however, scholars know little else about Maya medicine.
8. The Maya played a game that resembled basketball and was played on specially designed courts.
9. One difference was that the Maya did not toss a rubber ball through a hoop; instead, they hit it with their elbows and hips.
10. The Mayan civilization, alas, disappeared for unknown reasons.