

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or modify nouns and pronouns. Just think of nouns as being people, places, things, ideas and feelings, and adjectives describe all of these things.

Adverbs are used to modify or describe adjectives.

The **very** naughty student... Here, **very** is an adverb modifying the adjective **naughty**.

There are many adjectives in the English language. In fact there are so many, that you will see and sometimes learn them in groups according to the way they are used. We can call these sub-groups. The main sub-groups are:

Articles, Determiners and Quantifiers

- Articles – *a, an, the, ø*
- Determiners – *this, that, these, those*
- Quantifiers – *a lot of, some many*

As you go further with your studies you will also come across other terms for modifiers, and therefore sub-groups, and you can study these separately if you need to. This will be mostly for English language examinations.

More Sub-groups

- possessive adjectives – *his, her, its*
- demonstrative adjectives – *this, that, these, those*
- participles – *broken pencil, waiting car*
- modifying nouns – *ice cream, Hong Kong Citizen*

You know these already as Determiners, so don't worry too much!

Now that you know the terminology (names) for adjectives, let's have a look at what they can do.