**Adjectives – Attributive and Predicative**

Adjectives in the first position - before the noun - are called **ATTRIBUTIVE** adjectives.

*We had a great time. (attributive)*

Adjective in the second position - after the noun - are called **PREDICATIVE** adjectives. **Notice:** that predicative adjectives do not occur immediately after the noun. Instead, they follow a verb such as: be, become, look, seem, get etc.

*That movie was great. (predicative)*

* Most adjectives can be used in both ways without changing.

We had a **fantastic** holiday. (attributive)

Our holiday was **fantastic**. (predicative)

* Some adjectives are **always** attributive, so are only found before nouns.

the **chief** executive the **only** solution

**utter** chaos the **entire/whole** performance

**further** *(= additional)* information **sheer** genius

the **previous/former** president the **main** difference

the **western/southern** border a **mere** detail

* Some adjectives are **always** predicative, so are only found after verbs.

I was still **awake** at 2·00 a.m.

She got quite **upset** about her exam results.

You two look **alike**.

* Sometimes, to express the same meaning, a different adjective is used in the two positions.

The children were **afraid** of the dark (predicative)

The **frightened** children ran out of the bedroom (attributive)

She has been **ill** for some time (predicative)

There were a lot of **sick** people (attributive)

* Other adjectives change slightly according to whether they are attributive or predicative.

A **lone** gunman (attributive) The gunman was **alone**. (predicative)

**Live** animals (attributive) The animals were **alive**. (predicative)

A **sleeping** baby (attributive) The baby was **asleep**. (predicative)

A **drunken** argument (attributive) The men were **drunk**. (predicative)

My **elder** sister (attributive) My sister is **older** than me. (predicative)

**Exercise:**

* **Complete the sentences with the following adjectives:**

*afraid alive alone asleep drunk drunken frightened ill live lone mere only sheer sick sleeping*

1. Since his wife died nearly twenty years ago, Henry has always lived \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. We were lucky to get out of there \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ said 20-year-old Sandra Hewlett after her dramatic rescue.
3. Mr. Jones denied accusations of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ behavior at the awards ceremony. 'I only had two glasses of wine all evening; he told journalists.
4. Prices are still very low if you go to the right place, you can even get a three-course lunch for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $3!
5. Maria felt so happy, she wanted to laugh and sing from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ joy.
6. 6 Mother Teresa spent many years working with \_\_\_\_ children in India.
7. The transportation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ animals from one country to another remains a controversial issue.
8. Her innocent expression and wide eyes gave her the look of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ animal.
9. Henry gently placed his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ baby daughter into her cot.
10. Who knows whether the assassination was the work of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gunman, or if there were others involved?
11. It's often said that Emiko's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fault was a tendency to be over-generous.
12. It was 3 a.m. by the time we got home. Not surprisingly, everyone in the house was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. As a child, I was always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the dark and had to sleep with the light on.
14. Tim has had to leave work early. He said he was feeling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. It was clear that many of the football supporters who started the violence had been in the bars all day and were very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise:**

* **Rewrite the sentences.**
* **Use the adjectives in bold in the correct position and/or form.**
* **Make any other changes necessary.**

1. She has a son from a marriage which was previous.
2. The cinema was full of people who were afraid at the premiere of Night Chills 2.
3. What reason seems to be main for his attitude, in your opinion?
4. He tiptoed past the asleep dog and got himself a biscuit.
5. Do you think that the difference is only between the two tablets?
6. The doctor's waiting room was packed with people who were ill.