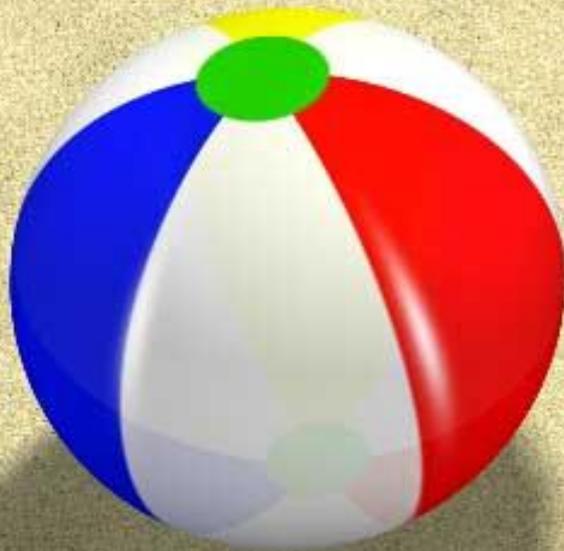


Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe (give information about) nouns and pronouns by telling *what kind, how many, or which one.*



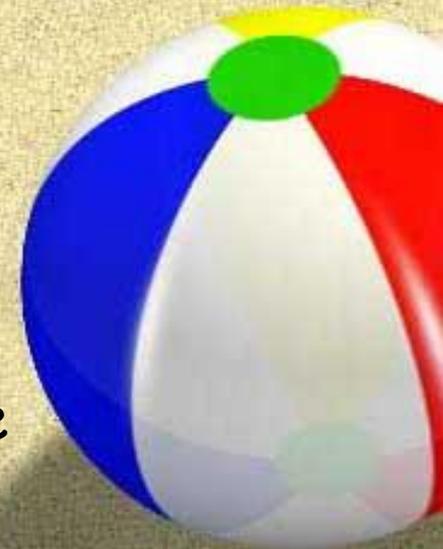
Adjectives can be **common** or **proper**. Certain nouns and verbs can be used as adjectives.

Common: - the **golden** sand
 - the **tired** swimmer (Notice how the verb "tired" is acting as the adjective.)

Proper: - a **California** beach (Notice how the proper noun "California" is acting as the adjective.)

Adjectives can also be **compound**: made up of two or more words. Often the words are connected with hyphens, so the adjective is then described as a **hyphenated adjective**:

My **up-in-the-clouds** sister didn't notice the crab and stepped on it.



More on Adjectives:

Articles (*a, an, the*) are adjectives.

Predicate adjectives follow linking verbs:
Some days are **gloomy** and **gray**.

When followed by a noun, *this, these, that, and those* act as **demonstrative adjectives**:

These sandals are too tight.
That beach ball is shiny.

Any, few, many, most, etc. are known as **indefinite adjectives** (they give approximate or indefinite information about a noun):
Some days are sunny and bright.



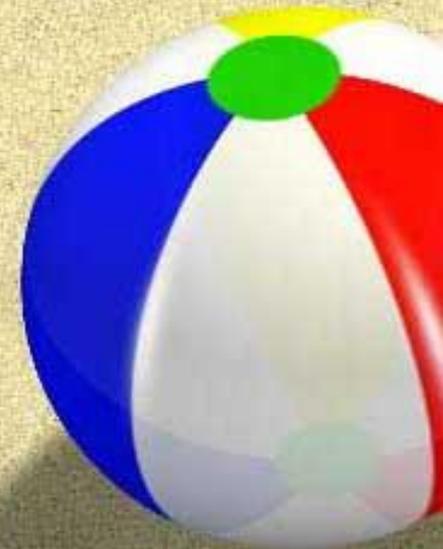
Adjectives that show comparison:

One-syllable **comparative adjectives** end in *er* and are used to compare two nouns: Tuna are **faster** than sharks.

One-syllable **superlative adjectives** end in *est* and are used to compare three or more nouns: The sailfish is the **fastest** of all ocean fish.

Most comparative and superlative adjectives with more than one syllable use the modifiers *more* or *less* and *most* or *least*.

Dolphins are **more intelligent** than sharks.
They are one of the **most intelligent** animals on the planet.



Some adjectives use totally different words to show comparison:

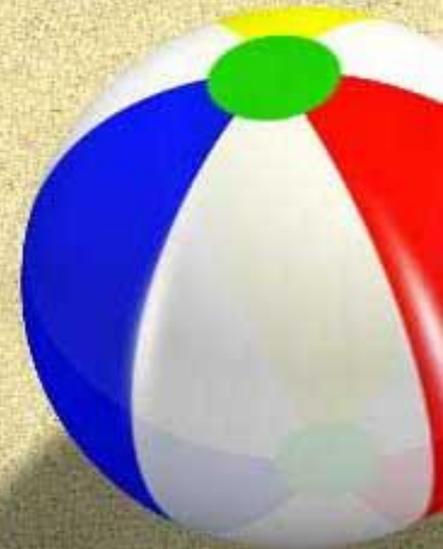
bad, worse, worst

good, better, best

little, less, least

many, more, most

Example: This beach is **good**, but the one on the other side of the cliff is **better**. The beach by the hotel, however, is definitely the **best**.



Choosing artful adjectives:

Use a **thesaurus** to help you find the best adjectives for your descriptions. Here are a few worn-out adjectives followed by more colorful alternatives:

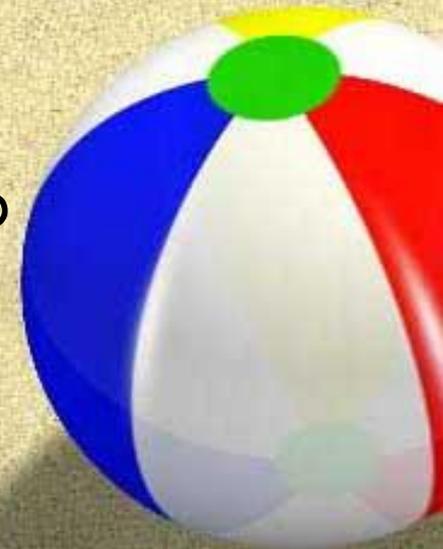
big: colossal, enormous, titanic, vast

dark: bleak, dim, murky, shadowy

fast: brisk, hasty, rapid, swift

good: first-rate, grand, splendid, superb

happy: cheerful, gleeful, joyous, thrilled



Sensory descriptions contain adjectives that appeal to the five senses:

hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and touching.

Choose words that accurately describe:

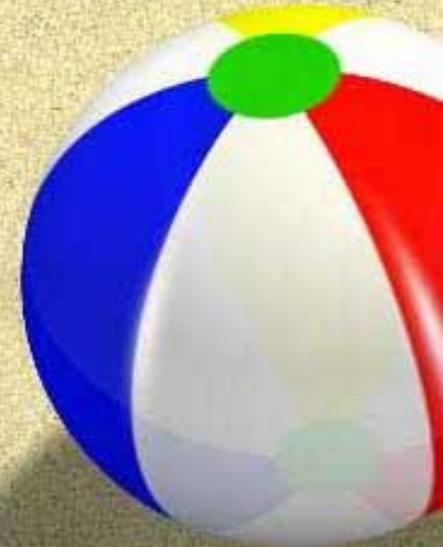
what you hear: hushed, muffled, strident

what you see: foggy, brilliant, hideous

what you smell: briny, smoky, musty

what you taste: bitter, tangy, spicy

what you feel: smooth, gritty, brittle



Choose Exciting Color Words:

Red- crimson, ruby, scarlet **Orange-** pumpkin, copper, apricot

Yellow- butter, canary, gold **Green-** emerald, olive, jade

Blue- azure, royal, turquoise **Indigo-** navy, midnight, sapphire

Violet- purple, lilac, amethyst **Black-** jet, raven, ebony

Brown- cocoa, coffee, hazel

White- ivory, eggshell, pearl

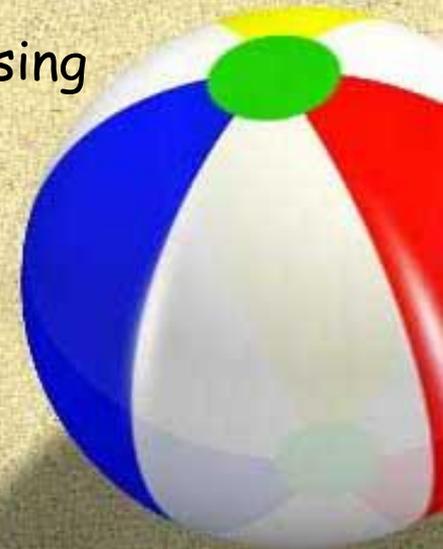


Adjectives will make your writing come alive.
Use them **artfully!**

Notice the way author Kathy Appelt uses adjectives in the following excerpt from her novel *Keeper*:

"After all,' Keeper told him, 'you're the **finder** dog.' That was **true**. Over the years BD (**short** for Best Dog) had found a **whole** host of **missing** objects -- the **odd** sock, a **misplaced** spoon, the **tiny** key to the lock on Keeper's diary, one of Signe's **peace-sign** earrings, **loose** pages of homework.

"He also found **other** things, things that weren't missing until he found them, like **one-of-a-kind** seashells and **tiny abandoned** puppies, including Too, who was adopted by Dogie. He even found **shooting** stars and **stripey** geckos, things that came and went. But right now BD wasn't so much a **finder** dog as a **worry** dog."



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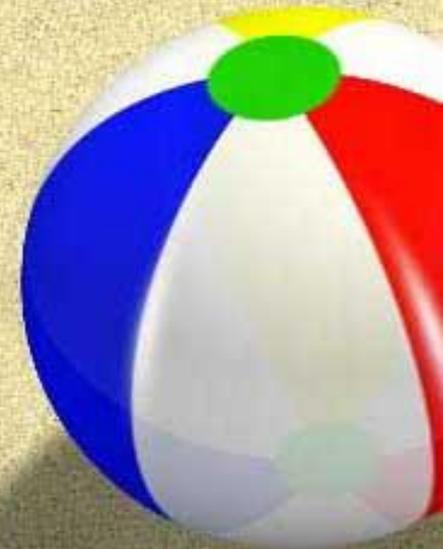
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