

Adjectives and Articles

11p. An **adjective** is a word used to modify a noun or a pronoun.

An adjective modifies a word by telling *what kind, which one, how much, or how many*.

- EXAMPLES** Mr. Cruz collects **Egyptian** art. [What kind of art?]
 Sara won **first** prize. [Which prize?]
 Do you have **enough** money for the tickets? [How much money?]
 Our computer club has **fifty-seven** members. [How many members?]

An adjective may come before or after the word it modifies.

- EXAMPLES** The **soccer** players, **confident** and **enthusiastic**, were **ready** to begin the game.

The most frequently used adjectives are the **articles** *a, an, and the*.

EXERCISE A In each sentence below, underline all of the adjectives, including the articles *a, an, and the*.

Example 1. Jenny Lind was a popular Swedish singer with a beautiful voice.

- Jenny Lind starred in several operas and gained great renown in European cities.
- At the absolute height of a brilliant career, she stopped performing in operas.
- In 1849, the talented diva gave up an operatic career and began planning a concert tour.
- From 1850 to 1851, Lind gave ninety-three concerts for the American public.
- This extraordinary performer delighted audiences for fifty-three years.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline all the adjectives except the articles *a, an, and the*. Then, draw an arrow from each adjective to the word it modifies.

Example 1. President Thomas Jefferson gave two American explorers a difficult assignment.

- These bold explorers were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.
- They were to explore the uncharted lands to the west of the Mississippi River.
- The long and arduous expedition began in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1804.
- They made their winter camp in what is now North Dakota.
- During that winter a Shoshone woman, Sacagawea, joined the expedition.
- Her name translates into the English language as “Bird Woman.”
- Sacagawea and her husband, a French-Canadian trader, accompanied the explorers through a large portion of the West.
- As an interpreter of native languages, Sacagawea was helpful to the expedition.
- The group, daring and resourceful, surmounted many obstacles.
- The two-year journey was successful.