

UNIT 14

Adjectives DESCRIBING PEOPLE

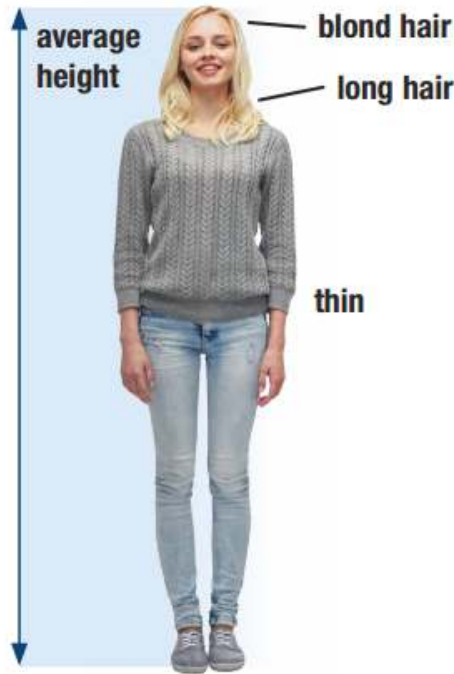
OUTCOMES

- Use adjectives to describe nouns
- Use *be* and *have* with adjectives
- Answer questions about a reading
- Complete sentences about a conversation
- Describe people
- Write descriptions of a classmate and a friend

STEP 1 GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

BEFORE YOU READ

A VOCABULARY Study the words. Then complete the sentences. Write the names of famous people or people you know.



_____ has short hair.
 _____ has blond hair.
 _____ has dark hair.

_____ has long hair.
 _____ is tall.
 _____ is average height.

B Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.

 **READ**

Read this conversation.

What Does She Look Like?

RICK: Are you in Music 101?

JUDY: Uh-huh. . . . It's a **great** class. I like it a lot.

RICK: Could you please give these tickets to Sonia Jones? She's in your class.



JUDY: Sure. But I don't know her. What does she look like?
RICK: Well, she has **dark** hair and **dark** eyes.
JUDY: Half the women have **dark** hair and **dark** eyes. It's a **huge** class. There are 100 students in it!
RICK: Well, she's **tall** and **thin**.
JUDY: OK, but a lot of women are **tall** and **thin**.
RICK: She's **young**. . . . She's in her twenties.
JUDY: Rick! Almost everyone at school is twenty-something.¹ Is there something **unusual**² about her?
RICK: Well. . . . She has two heads!
JUDY: What?!
RICK: Sonia's eight months pregnant.³
JUDY: Oh! Now I know who she is!

¹ *twenty-something*: between twenty and thirty years old

² *unusual*: different

³ *pregnant*: going to have a baby



AFTER YOU READ

A COMPREHENSION Look at the conversation again. Circle the correct answers.

- Is Sonia in Music 101?
a. Yes, she is. b. No, she isn't.
- Does Sonia have blond hair and blue eyes?
a. Yes, she does. b. No, she doesn't.
- Is Music 101 a small class?
a. Yes, it is. b. No, it isn't.
- Are most of the students between the ages of twenty and twenty-nine?
a. Yes, they are. b. No, they aren't.
- Does Sonia really have two heads?
a. Yes, she does. b. No, she doesn't.
- Is Sonia pregnant?
a. Yes, she is. b. No, she isn't.

B Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](https://www.myenglishlab.com) for more grammar in context practice.

STEP 2 GRAMMAR PRESENTATION

ADJECTIVES

| Be + Adjective | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------|
| Subject | Be | Adjective |
| She | is | tall. |
| They | are | tall. |
| Mary and Joe | are | tall. |

| Adjective + Noun | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Adjective | Noun |
| She is a | tall | woman. |
| They are | | women. |
| I have a | long | face. |
| We have | | legs. |
| He has an | old | computer. |
| They have | | computers. |

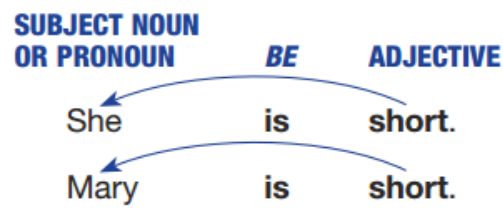
| Noun Modifiers | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------|
| | Noun Modifier | Noun |
| She is a | music | teacher. |
| They are | football | players. |

GRAMMAR NOTES

1 Adjectives: Form and Meaning

Adjectives **describe** nouns.

Adjectives can come **after** the verb *be*.



Adjectives can come **before** a noun.



BE CAREFUL! Adjectives **do not follow** nouns.

She is an **old woman**.
NOT She is a ~~woman~~-old.

BE CAREFUL! Do not add -s to adjectives. They have the **same form** before singular and plural nouns.

He is a **thin** man. (*singular*)
 They are **thin** men. (*plural*)
NOT They are ~~thins~~ men.

2 A or An Before an Adjective

When an **adjective** comes before a **singular count noun**, use *a* or *an* before the adjective.

Use *a* before the adjective if it begins with a **consonant sound**.

She's **a tall** woman.
He has **a long** face.

Use *an* before the adjective if it begins with a **vowel sound**.

She has **an old** watch.
It's **an unusual** name.

3 Noun Modifiers

Nouns can also describe nouns. The modifying nouns have the **same form** before singular and plural nouns.

| | NOUN | NOUN |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| He's a | baseball | player. |
| They are | baseball | players. |
| I have an | English | class. |
| They are | English | teachers. |

4 Be and Have + Adjectives

Remember, *be* and *have* are **common irregular verbs**. These verbs are commonly used with **adjectives** or **adjectives + nouns** to describe people and things.

We can use *be* + an **adjective** alone.

| | VERB | ADJECTIVE |
|------|--------------|------------------|
| I | am | short . |
| He | isn't | tall . |
| They | are | thin . |

We use *have* + an **adjective** + a **noun**.

| | VERB | ADJECTIVE | NOUN |
|------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| I | have | blond | hair . |
| They | don't have | long | hair . |
| She | has | brown | hair . |
| He | doesn't have | brown | hair . |

BE CAREFUL! We use *be*, not *have*, to talk about **age**.

A: How old **are** you?
B: **I am** twenty-one years old.
NOT ~~I have twenty-one years.~~

REFERENCE NOTE

For definitions of grammar terms, see the Glossary on page 375.

STEP 3 FOCUSED PRACTICE

EXERCISE 1 DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR

A GRAMMAR NOTES 1-4 Read the conversation. Circle the adjectives.

JUDY: So, Rick, how was the concert?

RICK: It was great, but long.

JUDY: Was Sonia there with her husband?

RICK: Yes, they were both there.

JUDY: What does her husband look like?

RICK: He's tall and heavy. He has brown hair and green eyes.

JUDY: What does he do?

RICK: I think he's a football player.

JUDY: That's an interesting job.

B Write the adjectives from A and the nouns they describe.

| Adjective | Noun |
|--------------|----------------|
| <u>great</u> | <u>concert</u> |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

C Look at the conversation in A. Underline the noun modifier.

EXERCISE 2 ADJECTIVES WITH A OR AN

GRAMMAR NOTES 1-2, 4 Complete the sentences. Circle the correct words.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. She has <u>a beautiful</u> / beautiful face. | 5. She is <u>a beautiful</u> / beautiful woman. |
| 2. He is <u>a tall</u> / tall. | 6. Her eyes are <u>a blue</u> / blue. |
| 3. They are <u>a tall</u> / tall men. | 7. He has <u>a red</u> / red hair. |
| 4. He is <u>a short</u> / short man. | 8. I need <u>an unusual</u> / a unusual gift. |