
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The Grammar Gameshow

Adjectives

Will

Hello and welcome to today's Grammar Gameshow! I'm your host, Will! It's all you've got! And of course, let's not forget Leslie, our all-knowing voice in the sky.

Leslie

Hello, everyone!

Will

Tonight we're going to ask you three questions about...

Leslie

Adjectives! Those useful words that put some detail into our dialogue.

Will

OK! Now, let's meet our contestants!

Stacey

Hello, all. I'm Stacey.

Will

And contestant number two?

Charlene

It's nice to meet you. I'm Charlene.

Will

Welcome one and welcome all, answer me right, or take a fall! Anyway, let's move on to round one. This is a control round. Answer the first question correctly, and I'll ask you three more. You must answer all three correctly to get any points. True or false: Adjectives always come before a noun.

Stacey

Easy! True!

Will

Wow, you seem very confident. Remember, you must answer all three of the following questions to get any points.

Stacey

Bring it on, Willy.

Will

Willy?! I haven't been called Willy since... But that was such a long time ago. Where is the adjective in this sentence? He lives in a blue house.

Stacey

The adjective is 'blue'. It comes before the noun 'house'. Like I said!

Will

Try this one. The ferocious shark swam quickly.

Stacey

'Ferocious' - adjective . 'Shark'- noun. Adjective before noun, yawn!

Will

OK! Last one. I feel happy.

Stacey

The adjective is 'happy'. It comes before... Oh!

Will

Charlene. Would you like to answer this one?

Charlene

'Feel' is a linking verb so it can connect with an adjective. But the adjective comes after.

Will

Leslie?

Leslie

Well done! Adjectives commonly go in two positions. They can appear before the noun they are describing or they can follow a linking verb, such as: 'become', 'feel', or 'be'.

Will

Well done, Charlene. You get all of Stacey's points.

Stacey

Hey! That's not fair! I answered three out of the four! Willy! Please!

Will

Well, when you put it like that. 10 points to Charlene and 20 to Stacey.

Charlene

Hey! I see you! Two can play at that game. Carry on, Willsy!

Will

Willsy? I haven't been called that since... But, that was such a long time ago. OK, on to our next round, and this will be quick-fire round. Everybody knows that adjectives have an order. Here are some adjectives. I want to know what order they should go in. The noun is 'suit'. Ready? Old.

Stacey

An old suit, Willy.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Beige.

Charlene

An old beige suit, Willsy.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Woollen.

Stacey

An old beige woollen suit, Willy.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

American.

Charlene

An old beige American woollen suit, Willsy.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Medium.

Stacey

A medium old beige American woollen suit, Willsy!

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Leslie?

Leslie

Good job! Though it is unlikely that you'll order so many adjectives for one noun, the order goes: size, age, shape, colour, origin, material! Though there are other types of adjectives which do not feature in this list, such as: adjectives of opinion.

Will

Excellent job!

Stacey

Seriously, how hideous. Who'd wear a suit like that?

Charlene

Yeah! For once, I agree. Just tacky, tacky, tacky... on most people, but not on you Willsy!

Stacey

Yeah, you've got the build to pull it off, Willy.

Will

Yes. I thought so too. Ten points each and later you can tell me more things about myself! On to our third round - and it's time to get extreme, ladies. Ladies, show me 'extreme'! Yeah, very nice! Some adjectives are called 'non-gradable' or 'extreme'. I'm going to give you an adjective and you're going to give me the extreme version. Ready? Tasty.

Charlene

Willsy looks utterly delicious in his suit.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Oh you! Interesting.

Stacey

Everything you say is absolutely fascinating.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Stop, stop! No, no, no! Don't stop! Handsome.

Charlene

The host of this show is totally stunning.

Leslie

Correct!

Will

Well, this is unexpected. Leslie?

Leslie

Absolutely perfect! Gradable adjectives can be made more or less using words like 'very' or 'a bit'. Non-gradable adjectives, however, are too strong. You cannot be 'a bit exhausted'. In order to modify them, we need a stronger adverb such as 'absolutely', 'totally' or 'utterly'.

Will

Excellent work. Here are twenty points each in mixed currency. And that brings us to the end of today's Grammar Gameshow. And the winner is... Stacey! Well done! Here's what you've won!

Leslie

It's Will's favourite pair of shoes!

Will

When did you get them? And Charlene. You did well, but not well enough I'm afraid.

Charlene

But Willsy...

Will

Here come the owls! It looks like we'll need another contestant.

Stacey

So...where are we going for dinner?

Will

Whoa! Fun and games aside, you're a nice person, but we're not even in the same league!

Stacey

Men! Hang on Charlene! Sisters before misters!

Will

Death before dishonour. Respect! Thanks for joining us. Say goodbye, Leslie.

Leslie

Do svidanya, Leslie!

Will

See you next time.