

2 Putting things in order

1

a Adjective word order is very complicated but the columns below show a typical order for describing people and clothes.

<i>Opinion</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>+ Noun</i>
lovely ugly	big tall	round fat	grey	cotton	

Put the following words into the correct column above:

leather thin square blond long scruffy
 broad greenish gold cashmere suede filthy
 nylon fair pointed huge dark steel pale
 tiny short smart muscular bright (+ colour)

There are exceptions to this order. Adjectives describing opinion can sometimes be placed after those describing size, shape, or even colour, but this is not always possible.

Example:

scruffy, long black hair ✓ *or* long, black scruffy hair ✓
 a lovely, long grey dress ✓ *but not* a long, grey lovely dress ✗

b Complete the following story with adjectives from above.

The woman was able to give the police a detailed description of her attackers. One of the men was tall and with short hair, skin, and blue eyes. He was wearing a grey suit with a blue jumper underneath, and he had an expensive-looking ring on the index finger of his left hand. In contrast, the other man was much shorter, but with shoulders and a very build. He also had short hair but it was and quite curly, and his face was than the other man's with a chin. His clothes were old and He wore blue jeans, an old black jacket, and a pair of red trainers.

c Describe different people in your class and see how quickly a partner can guess who you are talking about.

2

a Rewrite the sentences below using the adverbs in the box to replace the underlined words. The meaning must stay the same.

generally	invariably	hardly ever	repeatedly	occasionally
barely	regularly	partly	probably	definitely
				often

Example: I don't ^{often} see her a ~~great deal~~ nowadays.

- 1 She eats meat about twice a year.
- 2 I agree with you to a certain extent.
- 3 Our receptionists are female, almost without exception.
- 4 As a rule she does her job very efficiently.
- 5 I've told him a hundred times to keep his keys in a safe place.
- 6 Once in a while he loses his temper.
- 7 I think there's a very good chance that she'll get the job.
- 8 I could walk about three steps when I came out of hospital.
- 9 She'll pass the exam without a doubt.
- 10 I visit my parents twice a week.

b Compare your answers with a partner. What position do these adverbs go in, and how many of them can go in more than one place in the sentences above?

c Using the adverbs above, modify the following sentences so they are true of yourself. Then compare your sentences in groups and discuss them.

- 1 I use a dictionary when I'm studying English at home.
- 2 I repeat words to myself in English.
- 3 I talk to myself in English.
- 4 After lessons I revise new vocabulary at home.
- 5 When I forget words I feel it's my own fault.
- 6 I can remember new vocabulary from the previous lesson.

3

a Put the words on the right into the correct place on each line of the story.

The doctor's car drew up at eight o'clock.
'The patient slept soundly,' I said. 'In fact, she is asleep now.'
He didn't look at me, but instead walked straight through
to the sickroom and examined her. It took a long time, for
despite his efforts, she didn't wake up fully.
'Is she getting protein in her diet?' he asked.
'She eats solid food,' I replied.
He scribbled a prescription on a grubby form, closed his bag
and left. For some reason I felt relieved and when I told my
father-in-law I was going to get some medicine, he breathed
a sigh of relief and we smiled. 'She'll soon be better,' he
said.

outside
still
even
quite
still
enough
hardly ever
carelessly
greatly
also
both

b Compare your answers with a partner and check them with your teacher.

c Now continue the story, putting the words into the correct place.

I decided to take Leela with me on this occasion. I had
time to take her out these days and she looked thrilled.
Her little friend was playing when we left. Leela said,
'Can Sami come, please?' The two girls were very alike and
when we got to the shops they chose the same sweets. It
was a warm day and I let them play on the swings on the
way back.

When we came to the corner of the street they were excited
from their game. Immediately I saw the doctor's car outside
the house and I told the children to go and play. They scampered
off giggling. Fortunately they hadn't noticed the car, but in
any case, they were not old enough to understand.

hardly ever
enough
outside
as well
even
quite

still
almost
both
even
yet

d Compare your answers with a partner and try to form your own rules for the use of these words.

e With your partner, write the last part of the story. Try and use several of the words above.

4

a Put the words in the list into the correct columns below.

former forthcoming ex- current next
 ancestor predecessor last latest successor
 previous recent descendant late

<i>Past</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Future</i>

b Using these words, complete the following sentences. There may be more than one possible answer.

- 1 Can you name two holders of the World Cup (football)? Do you know who the holders are?
- 2 Who is the secretary of the United Nations and who was his/her
- 3 Can you name a possible to the United States as the richest country in the world?
- 4 Spielberg's film is about the war. I don't like it as much as his film.
- 5 What do you think our would have thought of our way of life?
- 6 And what do you think our will think of it?
- 7 She had been a widow for three years, but a day never passed without her thinking of her husband.
- 8 The political parties believe the election in June will be a very close battle.
- 9 The President was accompanied by the President and political leaders from a number of European countries.
- 10 What do you think will be the major change in the world of technology?

2 Putting things in order

SELF-STUDY ACTIVITIES

- 1 Ordering words along a scale can also help you to remember the meaning of different words, for example:

freezing→cold→lukewarm→warm→hot→boiling (for water)

Put the following groups of words along a scale and add any others you know which might also go on the same scale. (One word or phrase in each group appeared in the story in exercise 3.)

- a) giggling grinning roaring with laughter
- b) for a while for ages for a split second
- c) thrilled satisfied pleased
- d) wrote printed scribbled
- e) drew up pulled up sharply screeched to a halt
- f) scampered sprinted jogged

- 2 Look up the meaning of the following adverbs (if necessary), and then decide which ones could be used in the sentences below. Can the adverbs go in more than one position in the sentences, and if so, does this change the meaning of the sentence?

foolishly bravely accidentally
deliberately reluctantly willingly

- a) The documents were thrown away.
- b) I answered all his questions.
- c) She tried to save the drowning child.
- d) When he pulled out a knife I got out of his way.
- e) He spent the whole day in bed.

