

## Describing Words – Learning About Adjectives

When we write or speak we use sentences, like this one. A sentence is made up of words. Each word belongs to a special **part of speech**. Some of the parts of speech, which we already know, are **nouns** and **verbs**. The part of speech doesn't tell us what the word is, but it tells us how the word is used. Therefore, the same word can be a noun in one sentence and a verb in another. For example:

Our **camp** is on the beach. We often **camp** in the woods. This is my **camp** chair.

In the first sentence, the word camp is a **noun**, or a naming word. In the second sentence, camp is a **verb** or a doing word. In the third sentence, camp is a **describing word**. It tells us what kind of chair we are talking about.

Another name for a describing word is an **adjective**. An adjective is a word that describes a noun. It can tell us what the noun looks like, or tastes like, or feels like or sounds like. It can also tell us how big it is or how many there are.

Sometimes we need more than one adjective to describe something. For example: my friend has a **small, spotted, yappy** dog. When we do, we usually use commas between the adjectives. In the example the adjectives tell us how big the dog is, what it looks like and what it sounds like.

How many different adjectives can you think of to describe the following nouns?

An ice-cream; a kitten; an elephant; a drum.

## Describing Words – Learning About Adjectives Questions

### A: Find the adjectives

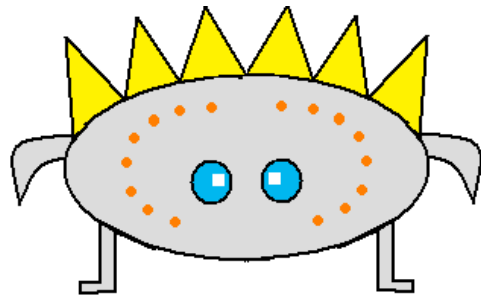
Can you underline all the adjectives? The first one has been done for you.

1. It was a hot, sunny day.
2. My best friends, John, Mary and Katy, her naughty little sister, were going to the beach; they asked me to go with them.
3. I put on my new, green costume and found a soft, fluffy towel to take to the beach.
4. At the beach, we used the damp sand to built enormous sandcastles.
5. Then we bought some delicious, cold, drippy ice creams and sweet, fizzy pop to eat and drink.
6. Before we went home, we had a lovely swim and then lay on the warm sand until we were dry.
7. Silly Katy didn't swim because she was afraid of the big waves, so we wiped off her sticky, sandy hands and mouth with our wet towels.
8. We all agreed that it was a perfect day.

### B: Describe your creature

Here is a funny looking creature.

Can you describe it in two sentences?



Now read the following description and see if you can draw the creature it describes:

The Nosewarbler has a large bumpy nose and three round eyes but only one eyebrow. He has a long thin mouth and his two sharp teeth stick out over his pointy chin. He has long floppy ears. His body is oval and he has six short, fat legs and three curly toes on each foot.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Describing Words – Learning About Adjectives Answers

### Activity A

1. hot, sunny
2. best, naughty, little
3. new, green, soft, fluffy
4. damp, enormous
5. delicious, cold, drippy, sweet, fizzy
6. lovely, warm
7. silly, big, sticky, sandy, wet
8. perfect

### Activity B

The response to this activity will be very subjective. Some of the adjectives that could be used for the 'creature' are spiky, yellow, spotted, blue, red, squint, oval, round, two, and floppy. The 'creature' the children draw should be recognizable from the description given.