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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Adjectives

ADJECTIVES ENDING IN -ED AND -ING

EXPLANATION

- You have probably used ADJECTIVE forms like **bored** and **boring**, or **excited** and **exciting**.
- We often use the **-ing** form to refer to a feature or characteristic of the noun. If we say **That party was boring**, the word **boring** tells you something about the **party**.
- We usually use the **-ed** form to refer to how we feel. If we say **I was bored**, the word **bored** refers to your feeling.
- You can remember this difference with the following phrase: **The ing is in the thing and the ed is in your head.**

-ING AND -ED ADJECTIVES

- The whole experience was **pleasing**.
- I was **pleased** to get such positive feedback after my interview.
- It was a **thrilling** tennis match.
- I was absolutely **thrilled** to see you again after so many years.
- The view from the balcony is **amazing**.
- I am **amazed** that so many young people visit that tourist resort each year.
- The lecture on molecular biology was **interesting/fascinating**.
- I was **interested/fascinated** by what the lecturer said about quantum physics. (This **-ed** adjective works like a passive form)

-ING AND -ED ADJECTIVES

- The architecture in the city is **astonishing**. Just looking at it really takes your breath away.
- I was **astonished** to read that literally millions of human beings are victims of slavery.
- The cost of the new airport is **staggering**.
- I was absolutely **staggered** to receive the news that I had won the top prize in the national lottery.
- The cost of living in large cities like Tokyo is **astounding**.
- I am **astounded** by the number of adults who lack basic reading and writing skills. (This **-ed** adjective works like a passive form)

-ING AND -ED ADJECTIVES

- Many people find flying **frightening**.
- A surprisingly large proportion of the population is **frightened** of flying.
- It is so **worrying/concerning** that we seem incapable of looking after our planet.
- I am **worried/concerned** about the future.
- It is **terrifying** that most of the world's coral reefs are dying
- I was **terrified** to learn that there are now viruses and infections for which we have absolutely no effective antibiotics.

-ING AND -ED ADJECTIVES

- Sitting in a traffic jam for hours is intensely **irritating**.
- I was quite **irritated** by having to queue for half an hour just to buy some bread. (This **-ed** adjective works like a passive form)
- Losing your car-keys can be very **annoying**.
- I don't mind admitting that I get **annoyed** when people break their promises.
- The journey was **exhausting**. Being stuck on a train for forty-eight hours is incredibly **tiring**.
- I am sorry I didn't call you when I got back last night. I was **exhausted**. I have been feeling really **tired** for a few days now.

-ING AND -ED ADJECTIVES

- The attitude that poorer people have less worth than the rich is absolutely **disgusting**.
- I am **disgusted** that so many of us just throw plastic items away without thinking of the damage being done to the environment.
- Waiting for friends who have forgotten that they agreed to meet you can be **infuriating** at times. It really annoys me.
- I was absolutely **infuriated** to get a parking fine yesterday. I had only left my car outside a shop for two minutes but when I got back to it there was a ticket on the windscreen.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Adjectives

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH PAST PARTICIPLE

EXPLANATION

- Many **ADJECTIVES** have two parts which are usually connected with a hyphen. (They are hyphenated)
- These **ADJECTIVES** have several forms.
- Using these **ADJECTIVES** can widen your vocabulary incredibly quickly.
- The second part of the **ADJECTIVE** is often a **PAST PARTICIPLE**.

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PAST PARTICIPLE

Many **two-part adjectives** are made using the past participle of a verb:

- a **badly-run** company/organization
- **poorly-paid** workers/staff/employees
- **poorly-motivated** workers/staff/employees
- a **well-paid** job
- a **well-organized** conference/meeting
- **internet-based** learning/courses/study
- a **computer-based** exam/course
- a **work-related** problem/issue
- a **student-centred** approach to teaching

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PAST PARTICIPLE

- a **much-debated** question/issue
- a **hotly-debated** issue/topic/subject/question
- a **previously-mentioned** idea
- a **well-documented** problem/issue
- a **little-known** fact / piece of information
- a **well-planned** strategy/approach/policy
- a **frequently-used** method/approach/strategy
- a **little-used** method/approach/strategy
- **old-fashioned** approaches/methods/ideas
- **man-made** problems

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PAST PARTICIPLE

- a half-baked plan (= a plan which is not well prepared)
- well-respected experts/scientists
- a widely/generally/universally-held opinion/view
- a widely-spoken language
- far-flung lands (= places which are far away)
- a far-fetched idea/notion (= an idea which is impossible to believe)
- an internationally-renowned artist/musician/writer/expert
- a well-known singer/artist/celebrity/politician
- a much-loved book/film/journey/writer
- deep-rooted fear/animosity/anger/hostility

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PAST PARTICIPLE

- a **universally-hated** politician/idea/concept/approach
- an **over-rated** activity/movie
- an **under-rated** team/author
- a **middle-aged** bank manager / accountant / journalist
- a **highly-qualified** lawyer/surgeon/psychologist
- **well-behaved** children/pets
- **badly/poorly-behaved** teenagers/students
- **densely-populated** cities / metropolitan areas
- **sparsely-populated** rural areas / regions
- **rat/cockroach–infested** dwellings

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PAST PARTICIPLE; EXAMPLES

- Many **well-respected** experts have put forward the idea that those living in **densely-populated** urban areas suffer significantly more stress than those living in **sparsely-populated** rural settings.
- It is often the case that **well-behaved** children do better in exams than **poorly-behaved** pupils, though there is little evidence to suggest that they are more intelligent.
- Many **internationally-renowned** artists earn vast amounts of money through their work, whilst other painters, sculptors and musicians who are not **well-known** are **poorly-paid** and struggle to make ends meet.
- Whether children benefit from being taught in single-sex schools is a **hotly-debated** issue.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Adjectives

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH PRESENT PARTICIPLE

EXPLANATION

- Many **ADJECTIVES** have two parts which are usually connected with a hyphen. (They are hyphenated)
- These **ADJECTIVES** have several forms.
- Using these **ADJECTIVES** can widen your vocabulary incredibly quickly.
- The second part of the **ADJECTIVE** is often a **PRESENT PARTICIPLE**.

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PRESENT PARTICIPLE

Many **two-part adjectives** are made using the present participle of a verb:

- a **fast-growing** economy/city
- a **profit-making** company/business/firm/organisation/enterprise
- a **loss-making** company/business/firm/organisation/enterprise
- **long-suffering** workers/employees/residents/slaves
- **high-flying** entrepreneurs / business executives / businesswomen
- a **coal-mining** region/area/village
- a **ship-building** (or **shipbuilding**) company/area

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES **WITH A PRESENT PARTICIPLE**

- an **easy-going** colleague/neighbour/acquaintance
- a **hard-working** colleague/individual/doctor
- a **long-lasting** friendship/effect
- **far-reaching** consequences/repercussions/ramifications
- a **free-flowing** conversation
- all **free-thinking** women and men
- a **forward-looking/thinking** approach
- a **thought-provoking** idea

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PRESENT PARTICIPLE

- a **mind-boggling** number of planets (= a very large number)
- an **English-speaking** country/friend/workmate/colleague
- a **mouth-watering** dish/starter/sweet
- **meat-eating** animals
- a **time-saving** device/strategy
- a **time-consuming** activity
- a **nail-biting** match (= a match which is exciting and makes the people who watch it feel very nervous)

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES WITH A PRESENT PARTICIPLE: EXAMPLES

- Companies seek to recruit **hard-working** individuals.
- There is a **long-lasting** territorial dispute between the two countries, which may one day escalate into war.
- Governments need to realise that the policies they introduce may have **far-reaching** consequences for the public.
- As a result of economic downturn, levels of unemployment in **ship-building** towns and **coal-mining** areas are extremely high.
- Statistics suggest that **English-speaking** members of staff tend to get promoted ahead of colleagues who lack this skill.
- **Fast-growing** economies often include many **profit-making** businesses.



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Adjectives

OTHER TYPES OF TWO-PART ADJECTIVE

EXPLANATION

- Many **ADJECTIVES** have two parts which are usually connected with a hyphen. (They are hyphenated)
- These **ADJECTIVES** have several forms.
- Using these **ADJECTIVES** can widen your vocabulary incredibly quickly.
- These **ADJECTIVES** can be made using **other ADJECTIVES and NOUNS**.
- It is also possible to have **ADJECTIVES** with **three or more parts**.

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES USING ADJECTIVES AND NOUNS

We can use nouns and adjectives and other parts of speech in **two-part adjectives**:

- **cost-effective** solutions/strategies (= solutions which save money)
- **cutting-edge** technology (= very modern)
- a **city-centre** carpark
- **inner-city** deprivation
- **run-down** neighbourhoods (= old; neglected; in very bad condition)
- a **twentieth-century** problem

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES **USING ADJECTIVES AND NOUNS**

- a **part-time/full-time** job
- a **world-famous** singer/landmark
- a **last-minute** decision
- **long/medium/short-term** benefits
- a **multi-national** company
- **poor-quality** housing/treatment/education/food

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES USING ADJECTIVES AND NOUNS: EXAMPLES

- Several **long-term** benefits result from reducing taxes.
- Although investing in infrastructure may seem expensive, it usually ends up being a **cost-effective** strategy.
- There is little doubt that tackling **inner-city** deprivation is a key strategy in the fight against crime.
- Although it is relatively easy to get a **part-time** job, **full-time** employment is beyond the reach of most school-leavers.
- Although it is sometimes said that **HIV/AIDS** was a **twentieth-century** problem, we should bear in mind that millions still suffer from the disease.

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES USING THREE OR MORE WORDS

Occasionally we can make **compound adjectives** with three or more parts:

- **state-of-the-art** laboratories (= technologically advanced; modern)
- a **round-the-world** trip
- a **once-in-a-lifetime** experience/opportunity
- a **never-to-be-forgotten** experience
- a **far/much-too-frequent** occurrence
- an **out-of-town** shopping centre
- an **eleven-year-old** pupil
- a **six-week-long** course

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES USING THREE OR MORE WORDS: EXAMPLES

- If I became fabulously wealthy, I would probably go on a **round-the-world** cruise for at least six months.
- I suppose that climbing Mount Everest would be a **once-in-a-lifetime** experience.
- The growth of **out-of-town** shopping centres has, in the eyes of some, affected the economic prosperity of city-centre traders.
- Businesses which embrace **state-of-the-art** technology to improve their productivity are far likelier to survive in the currently harsh economic climate than those which do not.



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Adjectives

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES DIFFERENT USES

EXPLANATION

- Many ADJECTIVES have two parts which are usually connected with a hyphen. (They are hyphenated)
- Using these ADJECTIVES can widen your vocabulary incredibly quickly.
- These ADJECTIVES have several uses. They can **express a quantity, describe a person's physical appearance or describe personal characteristics.**

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES EXPRESSING QUANTITY

We can often use **two-part adjectives** with numbers. We do not usually add **-s** to the noun part of the adjective:

- a **ten-kilometre** run
- a **two-hour** exam
- a **ten-year** period
- a **six-figure** salary
- a **two-part** adjective
- a **six-egg** omelette
- a **three-course** meal
- a **five-star** hotel
- **24-hour** opening

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES EXPRESSING QUANTITY

- a **four-legged** creature which became extinct
- a **twelve-page** report on the causes of teenage pregnancy
- a **three-point** plan to resolve the issue of traffic congestion
- a **three-stage** operation/procedure
- a **five-man/woman** team of explorers
- a **six-storey** building (= a building with six levels/floors)
- their **eight-year-old** daughter
- a **multi-storey** carpark (= a carpark with many levels)
- a **multi-purpose** tool (= a piece of equipment with several uses)
- a **tenfold** increase in reported crime

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES EXPRESSING QUANTITY: EXAMPLES

- Hardly anyone would choose to live in a **multi-storey** block of flats.
- Elderly people are encouraged to take a brisk **ten-minute** walk each day to improve their physical fitness.
- In the **ten-year** period under discussion, there was a general upward trend in the cost of living.
- During the **three-month** period which the table refers to, visitor numbers to the museum remained relatively constant.
- Throughout the **four-decade** period referred to in the chart, Thailand retained its place as the largest exporter of fish.
- Those who earn **six-figure salaries** should certainly pay more tax.
- There has been a **tenfold** increase in sales.

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Two-part adjectives can be used to describe physical appearance:

- a **blue-eyed** boy
- a **long-haired** popstar
- a **white-haired** old lady
- a **long-legged** spider
- a **bald-headed** singer
- **A short-sighted** pensioner

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES

CHARACTERISTICS

Two-part adjectives which include parts of the body can describe characteristics:

- a **thick-skinned** colleague (= not being easily hurt by criticism)
- a **thin-skinned** co-worker (= being easily hurt by criticism)
- a **warm-hearted** charity worker (= generous; kind towards others in thought and action)
- a **cold-hearted** business executive (= not having or not showing any warm feelings towards others)
- a **big-headed** celebrity (= boastful; keen to tell others positive things about yourself which may be untrue or exaggerated)
- A **hard-headed** businessman (= not influenced by emotions)

TWO-PART ADJECTIVES

CHARACTERISTICS

- a **broad-minded** traveller (= willing to accept others' behaviours and beliefs; not judgemental)
- a **narrow-minded** bigot (= not willing to accept others' behaviours and beliefs; not willing to change his/her beliefs)
- a **small-minded** idiot (= having strong opinions and being unwilling to consider changing them)
- a **two-faced** colleague (= insincere; willing to say bad things about you to other people but not directly to you)
- A **sharp-tongued** critic (= willing to criticise others in a way which might be hurtful)
- a **heart-breaking** story (= causing extreme sadness)



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Adjectives

ADJECTIVES FORMED FROM PARTICIPLES

EXPLANATION

- Some **ADJECTIVES** can be formed from the **PARTICIPLES** of verbs.
- Verbs have **PRESENT PARTICIPLES**, which usually end in **-ing**. Examples include **running, singing, continuing, encouraging**.
- Verbs have **PAST PARTICIPLES**, which sometimes end in **-ed**. These participles may be irregular. Examples include **finished, expected, encouraged, eaten, broken**.

ADJECTIVES FORMED FROM PRESENT PARTICIPLES

We can often make adjective forms from **present participles**:

- **understanding** parents
- **working** adults
- **an encouraging** development
- **discouraging** teachers
- **inspiring** teachers
- **lying** politicians
- **caring/uncaring** medical professionals
- **a rewarding / an unrewarding** job
- **boiling/freezing** temperatures

ADJECTIVES FORMED FROM PRESENT PARTICIPLES

We can often make adjective forms from **present participles**:

- **relaxing** sunbathers
- a **continuing** rise
- an **ongoing** debate
- **rising/increasing/falling/decreasing** prices
- a **developing** country
- **striking** workers
- a **striking** similarity
- **laughing/crying/screaming** children
- a **worrying/troubling/concerning** development

ADJECTIVES FORMED FROM PAST PARTICIPLES

We can often make adjective forms from **past participles**:

- a **stolen** car
- a **broken** window
- **hunted** animals
- **forgotten** events
- **rejected** applications
- **written** documents
- **spoilt** children
- **dropped** litter
- an **overlooked** problem

ADJECTIVES FORMED FROM PAST PARTICIPLES

We can often make adjective forms from **past participles**:

- **imprisoned** murderers
- **impoverished** families
- **sacked** employees
- **encouraged/discouraged** students
- **discarded** clothes
- **unprovoked** aggression
- **an unexpected** surprise
- **unidentified** flying objects (= **UFOs**)
- **unimagined** consequences



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Adjectives

POSITION

EXPLANATION

- **ADJECTIVES** can be placed in different parts of the sentence. It is important to know where to put them.
- They can go before and after **NOUNS** at times.
- They can go before and after **VERBS** at times.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** BEFORE **NOUNS**

We often put adjectives in front of the noun they refer to:

- Members of the public demand an **efficient public transport network**
- Meteorologists and climate-modellers suggest that we will have to deal with a large number of **extreme weather events** over the coming years.
- Surely everyone should have the right to **clean drinking water**.
- It is essential that parents are able to spend **quality time** with their **young children**.
- **Poverty levels** in **run-down inner-city areas** have unquestionably risen.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** BEFORE **NOUNS**

- Drought and famine constantly plague **developing countries** in **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- Although some **multi-national companies** have looked into the possibility of building **man-made settlements** on the moon, such a project would be fraught with dangers and **technical difficulties**.
- Life in **modern industrial cities** can be stressful and unhealthy: **noise pollution** and **poor-quality air** are just two of the factors which make living in metropolitan areas so unpleasant at times.
- Worryingly, hundreds of thousands of pre-teens are spending **their free time** in **their bedrooms**, accessing **inappropriate material** online without **their parents** having the **slightest clue** about what they are doing.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** AFTER **VERBS**

After linking verbs (to be; to seem; to appear; to get/become) and verbs connected with senses (to taste; to smell; to sound; to look; to feel) we can put adjectives:

- Modern computers **are** extremely **complex**.
- The advantages of participating in team-sports **are** **enormous**, even for the elderly.
- As far as I am concerned, giving teenagers a broad education **is** far **superior** to allowing them to specialise too early in either sciences or the humanities.
- The cost of posting a letter **is** much **higher** than it used to be.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** AFTER **VERBS**

- To me it **seems** utterly **pointless** to make young children learn mathematical equations by heart. They should not be introduced to such complex formulae until they **are** much **older**.
- Although making young army recruits do rigorous exercise may **appear/seem** **cruel** and **pointless**, in actual fact it instils discipline and could save the lives of these young soldiers if they find themselves in a battle.
- Many people start to **get/become** **angry** when they are frustrated or when they realise that they cannot accomplish what they want.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** AFTER **VERBS**

- Although many species of spider **look beautiful**, they contain a deadly poison.
- Restaurants selling international cuisine are hugely popular these days. Customers are attracted by food which **smells great** and **tastes unbelievably good**.
- It **feels wrong**, from a moral or ethical perspective, to shout at children when they make a mistake.
- That proposal **sounds reasonable** to me.
- Whenever I go home, my mum cooks my favourite food. It always **tastes amazing**.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** AFTER **NOUNS** IN PARTICIPLE CLAUSES

We can reduce relative clauses to make participle clauses which begin with adjectives:

- Countries need **leaders** **willing** to make difficult and unpopular decisions. (= leaders who are willing to...)
- Large companies often have **bosses** **unwilling** or **unable** to make the most of business opportunities. (= bosses who are unwilling or unable to...)
- This is a **game** **suitable** for younger and older children alike.
- This is an **option** **available** for anyone with a reasonable income.
- This is a **point** as **relevant** today as at any time in the past.
- This is a **policy** more **useful** than any previous one.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** BEFORE **INFINITIVES**

Many adjectives can go before an infinitive form:

- Those who eat sufficient quantities of fruit and vegetables are **likely to be** fitter than those who do not.
- Those who do regular physical exercise will be **able to run** further and **jump** higher than their lazier friends and acquaintances.
- I think it is **right/reasonable to criticise** parents who smack their children.
- It is surely **wrong/unfair to expect** parents to be perfect.
- Fortunately, in my country, we are **free to express** our opinions. Sadly, this is not the case everywhere.

POSITION OF **ADJECTIVES** BETWEEN **TO BE** AND **INFINITIVE**

Adjectives can go between the verb **to be** and an infinitive:

- I **am** always **horrified** **to find** youngsters dropping litter in the street.
- I **was** **disgusted** **to learn** how many of our fellow-humans live without access to clean water.
- I **will be** **delighted** **to see** the government pass a law which forced internet providers to close down websites containing pornographic images.
- Most of us **would be** **surprised** **to see** politicians actually taking steps to tackle the environmental crisis.
- Many of us **would be** **willing** **to pay** higher taxes if this extra money could be used to feed the world's hungry.

POSITION OF ADJECTIVES BETWEEN TO BE AND ING

Adjectives with prepositions can go between **to be** and the **-ing** form:

- A lot of elderly people **are** actually **scared/afraid of slipping** and falling, and so they stay at home whenever it is icy or snowy.
- I fervently believed we **should be proud of being** who we are.
- Older people in particular **are** often **worried about becoming** the victim of scammers and so prefer not to open online bank accounts.
- People who **are interested in pursuing** unpopular and unfashionable pastimes such as stamp collecting are often criticised or ignored by others. This seems grossly unfair to me.
- Many of us **are tired of being** lectured to by politicians with double standards. (This is a passive form)



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Adjectives

ORDER OF ADJECTIVES (AND THE USE OF COMMAS)

EXPLANATION

- If you want to combine two or more **ADJECTIVES**, it might matter which **ADJECTIVE** you put first.
- If you want to combine two or more **ADJECTIVES**, you might need to separate them with commas.
- To understand both of these issues, you need to know about the different **types of ADJECTIVE** and about **CUMULATIVE ADJECTIVES** and **COORDINATE adjectives**.

ADJECTIVES WORD ORDER

We often put determiners first, followed by **opinion** adjectives and adjectives which refer to **shape**, **age**, **colour**, **origin** and material/type:

- This **gorgeous** **full-length** **brand-new** **coffee-coloured** **Italian** leather jacket.
- Scientists have pioneered a **sensational** **new** approach.
- The church is a **staggeringly** **beautiful** **medieval** building.
- **Greedy** **western** countries have tended to exploit **smaller** **Third World** nations in the past.
- Most of those who actually vote in elections are **well-off** and **relatively** **elderly**.

USING COMMAS

COORDINATE ADJECTIVES

When we have a list of adjectives which are equally important (called coordinate adjectives), we can use commas:

- We need a **hard-working, motivated, well-organised, trustworthy** employee.
- **Lazy, poorly-paid, unmotivated** teachers need to be re-trained or sacked.

We can use **and** if the adjectives follow the noun:

- We need an employee who is **hard-working, motivated, well-organised and trustworthy**.

USING COMMAS

CUMULATIVE ADJECTIVES

We do not use commas if the adjectives are cumulative or different:

- An **intelligent** **young** man
- Three **important** reasons
- **Difficult** **economic** conditions
- The **good** **old** days
- **Happy** language students
- **Far-reaching** **social** ramifications
- My **favourite** **black** leather shoes



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

In each of the following sentences, choose the correct word:

1. The documentary on the Galapagos Islands was absolutely **fascinating/fascinated**.
2. I was **thrilling/thrilled** to see you again after so many years.
3. The trip was pretty **exhausting/exhausted**. When I got back, I just went straight to bed.
4. I find it a bit **irritating/irritated** when people push in front of me in a queue.
5. Doing voluntary work is such a **rewarding/rewarded** experience.
6. I got so **annoying/annoyed** when I missed the bus this morning.
7. My sister is so **annoying/annoyed**. She always borrows my clothes without asking.

ANSWERS

1. The documentary on the Galapagos Islands was absolutely fascinating.
2. I was thrilled to see you again after so many years.
3. The trip was pretty exhausting. When I got back, I just went straight to bed.
4. I find it a bit irritating when people push in front of me in a queue.
5. Doing voluntary work is such a rewarding experience.
6. I got so annoyed when I missed the bus this morning.
7. My sister is so annoying. She always borrows my clothes without asking.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

In each of the following sentences, choose the correct word:

1. Sharing a flat can be quite **infuriating/infuriated** at times. I get pretty **frustrating/frustrated** when I have to wait to use the bathroom or to cook.
2. I was really **pleased/pleasing** to see you again.
3. It was an absolutely **thrilled/thrilling** experience.
4. It is **annoyed/annoying** that so many people throw litter on the ground instead of putting it in the bin.
5. I find it **astonished/astonishing** that such a young person can play the piano so well.
6. I am genuinely **concerned/concerning** about the future of our planet.
7. The journey was absolutely **exhausted/exhausting**.

ANSWERS

1. Sharing a flat can be quite infuriating at times. I get pretty frustrated when I have to wait to use the bathroom or to cook.
2. I was really pleased to see you again.
3. It was an absolutely thrilling experience.
4. It is annoying that so many people throw litter on the ground instead of putting it in the bin.
5. I find it astonishing that such a young person can play the piano so well.
6. I am genuinely concerned about the future of our planet.
7. The journey was absolutely exhausting.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the sentence with an appropriate two-part adjective:

1. Unfortunately, I work for a really b_____-r_____ company. Everyone who works there is p_____-p_____. We all think we should be given a higher salary.
2. They say that i_____-b_____ learning is more effective than studying in an actual classroom, alongside other learners.
3. There is no doubt that the question of whether the death penalty should be used for murderers is h_____-d_____. When people discuss it, they tend to disagree and get angry.
4. Many w_____-r_____ social scientists believe that educating boys and girls separately makes sense. We should listen carefully to these experts.
5. Some of us have a d_____-r_____ fear of spiders or snakes. This feeling is so basic and fundamental that it is almost impossible to change.
6. There is a w_____-h_____ view that playing team-sports can have tremendous physical and social benefits for younger people.
7. Living in a d_____-p_____ city can be tremendously stressful. Many city-dwellers report high levels of stress and anxiety.
8. My decision not to go to university had f_____-r_____ consequences for me. It meant that I couldn't get a decent job when I left school. This has meant that throughout my life I have been much poorer than friends who got a Degree.

ANSWERS

1. Unfortunately, I work for a really **badly-run** company. Everyone who works there is **poorly-paid**. We all think we should be given a higher salary.
2. They say that **internet-based** learning is more effective than studying in an actual classroom, alongside other learners.
3. There is no doubt that the question of whether the death penalty should be used for murderers is **hotly-debated**. When people discuss it, they tend to disagree and get angry.
4. Many **well-respected** social scientists believe that educating boys and girls separately makes sense. We should listen carefully to these experts.
5. Some of us have a **deep-rooted** fear of spiders or snakes. This feeling is so basic and fundamental that it is almost impossible to change.
6. There is a **widely-held** view that playing team-sports can have tremendous physical and social benefits for younger people.
7. Living in a **densely-populated** city can be tremendously stressful. Many city-dwellers report high levels of stress and anxiety.
8. My decision not to go to university had **far-reaching** consequences for me. It meant that I couldn't get a decent job when I left school. This has meant that throughout my life I have been much poorer than friends who got a Degree.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences with two-part adjectives:

1. The lecturer put forward several th____-p____ ideas about how we will need to change the way we live in the future. I left the class with a lot to consider.
2. The city has decided to become carbon-neutral by the end of the decade. All pri____-ow____ cars will be banned from the city-center. This is clearly a f____-th____ approach.
3. I must say that my brother is pretty e____-g____. Not much bothers or concerns him and he is generally happy to fit in with other people's plans.
4. The rainforest contains a m____-b____ number of species. There are literally millions of different plants and animals there.
5. I____-c____ deprivation is clearly a problem. Those living in suburban areas in the outskirts of major cities have no idea how much poverty exists within the cities where they work.
6. Globalization is linked to the rise of m____-n____ conglomerates. These are vast p____-m____ organizations which sell many different goods or services in countries all around the world.
7. Reducing taxes can have m____-t____ and even l____-t____ benefits for individuals and for the economy as a whole.
8. I would love to go on a r____-t____-w____ trip. It would be a o____-i____-a-l____ experience.

ANSWERS

1. The lecturer put forward several **thought-provoking** ideas about how we will need to change the way we live in the future. I left the class with a lot to consider.
2. The city has decided to become carbon-neutral by the end of the decade. All **privately-owned** cars will be banned from the city-center. This is clearly a **forward-thinking** approach.
3. I must say that my brother is pretty **easy-going**. Not much bothers or concerns him and he is generally happy to fit in with other people's plans.
4. The rainforest contains a **mind-boggling** number of species. There are literally millions of different plants and animals there.
5. **Inner-city** deprivation is clearly a problem. Those living in suburban areas in the outskirts of major cities have no idea how much poverty exists within the cities where they work.
6. Globalization is linked to the rise of **multi-national** conglomerates. These are vast **profit-making** organizations which sell many different goods or services in countries all around the world.
7. Reducing taxes can have **medium-term** and even **long-term** benefits for individuals and for the economy as a whole.
8. I would love to go on a **round-the-world** trip. It would be a **once-in-a-lifetime** experience.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Try to complete the following sentences with compound adjectives:

1. Many new o_____ -o_____ -t_____ shopping centers have been built recently. They are popular with shoppers but this popularity often means that smaller fam_____ -r_____ businesses have to close.
2. We have figures for the t_____ -y_____ period running from 2001 to 2011.
3. After the operation, you will not be able to drive for a t_____ -f_____ -h_____ period. If you get behind the wheel of a car during the first day, you will be putting yourself and others at great risk.
4. My brother is extremely sh_____ -s_____. Unless he puts on his glasses, he can't see much at all.
5. One of my colleagues is extremely b_____ -h_____. He is always boasting about how good he is, how well he does his job or how much he gets paid.
6. Luckily for me, my parents were quite b_____ -m_____. When I behaved in slightly strange ways, they just accepted it.
7. The bank robber was a wh_____ -h_____ old lady. Nobody could believe it!
8. We live right at the top of a t_____ -s_____ building. None of the people living on the other eleven floors have such a good view of the city as we have.

ANSWERS

1. Many new **out-of-town** shopping centers have been built recently. They are popular with shoppers but this popularity often means that smaller **family-run** businesses have to close.
2. We have figures for the **ten-year** period running from 2001 to 2011.
3. After the operation, you will not be able to drive for a **twenty-four-hour** period. If you get behind the wheel of a car during the first day, you will be putting yourself and others at great risk.
4. My brother is extremely **short-sighted**. Unless he puts on his glasses, he can't see much at all.
5. One of my colleagues is extremely **big-headed**. He is always boasting about how good he is, how well he does his job or how much he gets paid.
6. Luckily for me, my parents were quite **broad-minded**. When I behaved in slightly strange ways, they just accepted it.
7. The bank robber was a **white-haired** old lady. Nobody could believe it!
8. We live right at the top of a **twelve-storey** building. None of the people living on the other eleven floors have such a good view of the city as we have.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Re-write the following phrases using a two-part adjective and a noun:

EXAMPLE

a plan which has three stages

ANSWER: a three-stage plan

1. A run which lasts for twenty minutes
2. An omelette which contains six eggs
3. An exam which contains four parts
4. A lesson which lasts for two hours
5. A carpark which has many floors/storeys
6. An animal which has four legs
7. A team which includes six men
8. A tool which has many purposes
9. A plan which has three points
10. A child who is eight years old

ANSWERS

1. A twenty-minute run
2. A six-egg omelette
3. A four-part exam
4. A two-hour lesson
5. A multi-storey carpark
6. A four-legged animal
7. A six-man team
8. A multi-purpose tool
9. A three-point plan
10. An eight-year-old child

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Turn the following phrases into **adjective + noun** structures:

EXAMPLE: a journey which takes ten minutes

ANSWER: a ten-minute journey

1. A hotel which has five stars
2. A period which lasts for two years
3. A process which has three stages
4. A team which includes five men
5. An exam which has four parts
6. An adjective which has two parts
7. An apartment which has three rooms
8. A gadget which has many purposes

ANSWERS

1. A five-star hotel
2. A two-year period
3. A three-stage process
4. A five-man team
5. A four-part exam
6. A two-part adjective
7. A three-room apartment
8. A multi-purpose gadget

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Turn the following phrases into **adjective + noun** structures:

EXAMPLE

a man with long hair

ANSWER: a long-haired man

1. A woman with red hair
2. A boy with blue eyes
3. A man with very short sight (= cannot see very well)
4. A spider with eight legs
5. A friend who has a warm heart (= is kind and caring)
6. A colleague who has a big head (= boasts and tells you how good or clever he/she is)
7. A neighbour who has a narrow mind (= cannot understand or accept ideas, beliefs or behaviours which he/she does not agree with)
8. A critic with a sharp tongue (= criticises very strongly)

ANSWERS

1. A red-haired woman
2. A blue-eyed boy
3. A short-sighted man
4. An eight-legged spider
5. A warm-hearted friend
6. A big-headed colleague
7. A narrow-minded neighbour
8. A sharp-tongued critic

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The following sentences contain relative clauses. Re-write each sentence with a participle/adjective clause:

EXAMPLE

There are many people who are capable of doing my job.

ANSWER: There are many people **capable of doing** my job.

1. We need political leaders who are willing to make difficult decisions.
2. Large companies often have bosses who are unwilling to promote their most talented members of staff.
3. Young children should not be allowed to play computer games which are only suitable for adults.
4. This is an option which is available for everyone.
5. This is an argument which is more relevant today than ever before.
6. This is a policy which is likely not to succeed.

ANSWERS

1. We need political leaders **willing to make difficult decisions.**
2. Large companies often have bosses **unwilling to promote their most talented members of staff.**
3. Young children should not be allowed to play computer games **only suitable for adults.**
4. This is an option **available for everyone.**
5. This is an argument **more relevant today than ever before.**
6. This is a policy **likely not to succeed.**

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences with participle adjectives:

EXAMPLE: A str_____ feature of the graph is that average wages for manual workers remained significantly lower than those for professionals.

ANSWERS: A **striking** feature of the graph is that average wages for manual workers remained significantly lower than those for professionals.

1. I think that str_____ workers should not be entitled to any pay.
2. The police found more than a dozen st_____ cars last week.
3. Unem_____ people in their fifties and sixties often have great difficulty finding work.
4. The journey was a nightmare. The plane was full of scr_____ children.
5. The cont_____ rise in global temperatures is extremely concerning.
6. I am slightly worried about the inc_____ popularity of violent computer games.
7. The ong_____ dispute between the two countries could lead to war.
8. There is a br_____ window at the back of the house. I suppose that is where the burglar got in.
9. The management of the company is poor. Most employees are unmo_____.
10. Poorly-be_____ children probably need encouragement rather than criticism.
11. Children need ins_____ teachers and car_____ parents.
12. Children certainly don't need unin_____ teachers and unc_____ parents.

ANSWERS

1. I think that **striking** workers should not be entitled to any pay.
2. The police found more than a dozen **stolen** cars last week.
3. **Unemployed** people in their fifties and sixties often have great difficulty finding work.
4. The journey was a nightmare. The plane was full of **screaming** children.
5. The **continuing** rise in global temperatures is extremely concerning.
6. I am slightly worried about the **increasing** popularity of violent computer games.
7. The **ongoing** dispute between the two countries could lead to war.
8. There is a **broken** window at the back of the house. I suppose that is where the burglar got in.
9. The management of the company is poor. Most employees are **unmotivated**.
10. **Poorly-behaved** children probably need encouragement rather than criticism.
11. Children need **inspiring** teachers and **caring** parents.
12. Children certainly don't need **uninspiring** teachers and **uncaring** parents.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Turn the following phrases into **adjective + noun** structures:

EXAMPLE: Prices which are rising

ANSWER: rising prices

1. Temperatures which are increasing
2. Children who are screaming
3. An economy which is struggling
4. Workers who are striking
5. A window which is broken
6. A car which has been stolen
7. Suitcases which have been lost
8. A businessman who has been murdered

ANSWERS

1. Increasing temperatures
2. Screaming children
3. A struggling economy
4. Striking workers
5. A broken window
6. A stolen car
7. Lost suitcases
8. A murdered businessman

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Decide whether each sentence uses **correct** or **incorrect** English:

1. Information available online cannot always be trusted.
2. Children able to read and write before starting primary school are at a clear advantage.
3. In my opinion, it is absolutely right to criticise governments which violate the human rights of their citizens.
4. Many of us would be willing to pay higher taxes if this resulted in better public services.
5. Students who work hardly usually benefit in the long-run.
6. Caribbean gorgeous islands manage to attract foreign wealthy tourists, but locals often complain about the ecological damage caused by international tourism.

ANSWERS

1. Correct

Comment: Adjectives can be placed immediately after nouns in participle clauses

2. Correct

Comment: Adjectives can be placed immediately after nouns in participle clauses

3. Correct

Comment: Adjectives can be placed between the verb **to be** and an infinitive form

4. Correct

Comment: Adjectives can be placed between the verb **to be** and an infinitive form

5. Incorrect

Comment: Some adverbs such as **hard, fast, early** and **late** take the same form as the adjective

6. Incorrect

Comment: Adjectives which express an opinion are usually placed before adjectives which express origin

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Decide whether each sentence uses **correct** or **incorrect** English:

1. It is terrifying to hear that literally hundreds of square kilometres of land are affected by the process of desertification every single week.
2. I am genuinely worried about the possibility of a nuclear war beginning as the result of a misunderstanding or miscalculation.
3. There is a widelyheld view amongst scientists that it will soon be possible for humans to live for up to a hundred and fifty years.
4. Even those in their sixties and seventies are recommended to have a brisk ten-minutes walk every day to keep themselves active.
5. During the two-year period under discussion, house prices remained relatively constant.
6. Parents expect their children to be taught in schools good-quality.
7. It seems entirely counterproductive to punish workers for being unproductive. It would make a great deal more sense to incentivise them to work more effectively.

ANSWERS

1. Correct

Comment: We can use phrases like It is terrifying/ frightening/ concerning/ worrying and I am terrified/ frightened/ concerned/ worried

2. CORRECT

Comment: We can use phrases like It is terrifying/frightening/concerning/worrying and I am terrified/frightened/concerned/worried

3. Incorrect

Comment: Two-part adjectives like **widely-held**, **broad-minded**, **narrow-minded**, **cutting-edge** and **long-haired** are usually hyphenated

4. Incorrect

Comment: Two-part adjectives which include a quantity like **ten-minute**, **three-storey**, **four-sided** and **hundred-year** are not usually made plural.

5. Correct

Comment: Two-part adjectives which include a quantity like **ten-minute**, **three-storey**, **four-sided** and **hundred-year** are not usually made plural.

6. Incorrect

Comment: Adjectives are usually placed immediately in front of the noun they refer to

7. Correct

Comment: Adjectives follow verbs such as **to be, to seem, to appear, to taste, to smell, to look, to feel**