

Attributive adjectives after nouns

Most adjectives can go in two main places in a sentence: in attributive position and predicative position.

In attributive position, an adjective comes before the noun it modifies.

She is a nice girl.

She married a rich businessman.

In predicative position, an adjective goes after the verb.

She is nice.

He looked upset.

While attributive adjectives usually go before the nouns, a few can be used after nouns. This, for example, happens in some fixed phrases.

Secretary General

Poet Laureate

Attorney General

Court martial

Some adjectives ending in -able/-ible can also be used after nouns.

It is the only solution possible.

Book all the tickets available.

After something, everything etc.

Adjectives come after words like something, everything, anything, nothing, somebody, anywhere etc.

I would like to go somewhere quiet. (NOT I would like to go quiet somewhere.)

I heard something interesting today. (NOT I heard interesting something today.)

In most expressions of measurement adjectives come after the measurement noun.

ten years older (NOT Older ten years) (NOT ten older years)

Attributive adjectives after nouns

six feet deep

two miles long

Verb + object + adjective

Adjectives can be placed after the object.

You make me happy.

Can you get the children ready for school?