Adjectives

Adjectives are describing words for nouns. They are used in sentences to give the reader or listener a better picture of the noun. Often more than one adjective is used to describe the same noun.

Example: The house — no adjectives, no description
The little, brown house — two adjectives, some description
Now I know what the house looks like.

The words "little" and "brown" give a description of the house which helps readers to get a mental picture of the house. An easy way to locate adjectives is to ask "which?" before a noun. If you see an answer to the question, then you have found an adjective. Sometimes you will find more than one answer.

Examples: The little, brown house
Which house? The little house. The brown house.

The ancient book was found in the dark, dusty attic.
Which book? The ancient book.
Which attic? The dark attic. The dusty attic.

Sometimes nouns can be used as adjectives. If you see two nouns next to each other, the first one may be used to describe the second one. In this case, the first noun is called an **attributive noun**, and it's being used as an adjective.

Examples: The circus is in town.
The word circus is a noun here.

The circus tent fell during the high wind.
The words circus and tent are usually nouns. The sentence talks about the tent for the circus, so circus is an adjective here.

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