**Faculty of Letters and Languages**

**Department of Arabic Literature**

**Module: English Language**

**Level: Group 5, 6, 7&8**

**Adjectives**

**Adjective**: an adjective is a word that is used to modify a noun or pronoun to make the sentence clearer and more specific.

Example: The snake is long and green.

* In this example, long and green are adjectives because they modify the noun **snake.**

1. **Using Adjectives**

**Adjectives** may come:

**a. before a noun or pronoun:**

Example**: exciting** lesson**, empty** room, **colorful** sunset.

* In this example, the adjectives **exciting**, **empty,** and **colorful** modify the nouns lesson,

room, and sunset respectively.

**b. after a noun or pronoun when it follows the forms of the verb to be or linking verbs** such as: look, taste, smell, feel, sound, appear, become, seem, remain, prove, and become.

E.g.

* John is sick.
* She looks very beautiful tonight.
* The night air smells fresh.
* The classroom appeared calm.

1. **Types of Adjectives**
2. **Proper Adjectives**

A proper adjective is derived from a proper noun.

**French** class **Spanish** food **European** car

1. **Compound Adjectives**

A compound adjective is formed when two words are used as one expression to modify the same noun. A hyphen is placed between the two words when they precede the noun being modified:

E.g. Her friend is a **well-known** author. (Here the compound adjective well-known modifies and precedes the noun *author* so a hyphen is used).

* In most cases, a hyphen is not used between the two words when they follow the noun being modified:

E.g. Her friend is **well known** as an author. (No hyphen is used)

**c.** **Listing Adjectives**

When you list more than two adjectives before a noun, they can be presented as a list, separated by commas. You do not always need a conjunction (***and***) when the adjectives are before the nouns, but you need ***and*** when the list comes after the noun.

* We have a small, square, blue car.
* Our car is small, square and blue.

1. **Comparative Adjectives**

Comparative adjectives are used to show the difference between two nouns or pronouns by stating that one has more of something than the other. These adjectives are usually formed by adding -er and are followed by the word “than” to show comparison:

* Liza is taller than her mother.

In this example, the comparative adjective **taller** is showing the difference between Liza and the mother.

* Some comparative adjectives are formed by adding the words “more” or “less” in front of the adjective and are followed by the word “than” to show comparison. This rule applies to adjectives that have two syllables or more and do not end in -y:
* This year’s mathematics exam was more difficult than last year’s .