

Colour, size and nationality

Introduction



Their house is red.

Definition

Adjectives describe **nouns**.

Construction

1. Before a noun: It's a **blue** car.
2. After 'to be': The car is/isn't **blue**.

There isn't a plural form:

The cars are reds. ✘
The cars are **red**. ✔

Uses

Adjectives give information about people and things. For example: colour, size and nationality.

It's **green**.
It's a **big** city.
They're **French**.
The river is 100km **long**.

Mont Blanc is 4,810m **high**.
She's 1.75m **tall**.

Examples



There are two **purple** sofas and a **pink** chair.



Is your office **big** or **small**?



My boss is **American** and his clients are **Japanese**.



James is **tall**.

Nationality



King Charles is **British**.

We use adjectives for nationality before a noun or after 'to be'. They always begin with a capital letter.

I work with a **Spanish** man.
We have a **Swedish** manager.

He's **French**.
They're **German**.

We use adjectives ending in 'an' as nouns:

He's a German/an American/an Italian. ✓

He's a Swedish/a French/a Japanese. ✗

For the nouns of nationalities ending with -ese, -ish, or -ch, we can use 'the' to talk about the whole population.

The English often take their holidays in France.

For nationalities ending with -n, generally no article is necessary.

Americans are friendly.

Here are some examples with their countries:

| Ending | Country | Nationality | Nouns |
|--------|-----------|----------------------|---|
| 'an' | Angola | Angolan | an Angolan (person) |
| | Australia | Australian | an Australian (person) |
| | Belgium | Belgian | a Belgian (person) |
| | Canada | Canadian | a Canadian (person) |
| | Egypt | Egyptian | an Egyptian (person) |
| | Germany | German | a German (person) |
| | India | Indian | an Indian (person) |
| | Italy | Italian | an Italian (person) |
| | Korea | Korean | a Korean (person) |
| | Latvia | Latvian | a Latvian (person) |
| | Mexico | Mexican | a Mexican (person) |
| | Norway | Norwegian | a Norwegian (person) |
| | Peru | Peruvian | a Peruvian (person) |
| USA | American | an American (person) | |
| 'ish' | Denmark | Danish | a Danish person; a Dane |
| | England | English | an English person; an Englishman [not 'Englishwoman'] |
| | Finland | Finnish | a Finnish person; a Finn |
| | Poland | Polish | a Polish person; a Pole |
| | Scotland | Scottish | a Scottish person; a Scot |
| | Spain | Spanish | a Spanish person; a Spaniard |
| | Sweden | Swedish | a Swedish person; a Swede |
| | UK | British | a British person |
| 'ese' | Burma | Burmese | a Burmese person |
| | China | Chinese | a Chinese person |
| | Japan | Japanese | a Japanese person |
| | Malta | Maltese | a Maltese person |
| | Nepal | Nepalese | a Nepalese person |
| | Portugal | Portuguese | a Portuguese person |
| | Senegal | Senegalese | a Senegalese person |
| | Vietnam | Vietnamese | a Vietnamese person |

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---|---|
| Other | France Greece Iceland Iraq Pakistan Switzerland Wales | French Greek Icelandic Iraqi Pakistani Swiss Welsh | a French person a Greek person; a Greek an Icelandic person an Iraqi person; an Iraqi a Pakistani person; a Pakistani a Swiss person; a Swiss a Welsh person |
|--------------|--|---|---|

Note that 'person' can also be 'man', 'woman', 'child', 'friend', 'colleague', 'manager' etc.

Examples:



This is the **Irish** flag.



I like **Italian** ice-cream.



Emily is **English**. Her friend, Karine, is **French**.



Andrew is a Swede. Tomoko is a **Japanese** visitor.



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