

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



Prince 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	a n 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
'ese'	UK	British	a British person
	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	French	a French person
	Greece	Greek	a Greek person; a Greek
	Iceland	Icelandic	an Icelandic person
	Iraq	Iraqi	an Iraqi person; an Iraqi
	Pakistan	Pakistani	a Pakistani person; a Pakistani
	Switzerland	Swiss	a Swiss person; a Swiss
	Wales	Welsh	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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