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
	Finland	Finnish	'Englishwoman']
	Poland	Polish	a Finnish person; a Finn
	Scotland	Scottish	a Polish person; a Pole
	Spain	Spanish	a Scottish person; a Scot
	Sweden	Swedish	a Spanish person; a Spaniard
	UK	British	a Swedish person; a Swede
			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**	**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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