How to Use Adjectives

An adjective describes how something 'is'. For this reason, we usually use the verb 'to be' when using adjectives. Adjectives are used to describe nouns.

Ex: He is a good doctor.

Rule: Adjectives describe nouns. The adjective is always invariable.

Ex: beautiful trees, they are happy

Be careful!
Adjectives do not have a singular and plural form OR a masculine, feminine and neuter form.

Adjectives are always the same!
Never add a final -s to an adjective.

NOT!!: difficults books

Rule: Adjectives are placed before the noun.

Ex: a wonderful book, very interesting people

Be careful!
Don't place an adjective directly after the noun

NOT!!: an apple red

HOWEVER:
Adjectives can also be placed at the end of a sentence if they describe the subject of a sentence.

Ex: My doctor is excellent.

Correct adjective order when using more than one adjective

Adjective Placement

When using more than one adjective to describe a noun place the adjectives in the following order before the noun.

NOTE: *We usually use no more than three adjectives preceding a noun.*

1 Opinion

Ex: an interesting book, a boring lecture

2 Dimension

Ex: a big apple, a thin wallet

3 Age

Ex: a new car, a modern building, an ancient ruin

4 Shape

Ex: a square box, an oval mask, a round ball

5 Colour

Ex: a pink hat, a blue book, a black coat

6 Origin

Ex: some Italian shoes, a Canadian town, an American car

7 Material

Ex: a wooden box, a woollen jumper BE / a wool sweater AE, a plastic toy

Here are some examples of nouns modified with *three adjectives in the correct order based on the list above.*
Notice that the adjectives are not separated by commas.

A wonderful old Italian clock.
(opinion - age - origin)

A big square blue box.
(dimension - shape - colour)

A disgusting pink plastic ornament.
(opinion - colour - material)

Some slim new French trousers.
(dimension - age - origin)

Review of correct adjective order:

opinion
dimension
age
shape
colour
origin
material

Note from Sara concerning exceptions, esp. in AE slang, when using the words "big" and "old":

Something is quite often described as "a big, ugly old..." or "big, stupid old ..."