

Finding Adjectives in Sentences

- Write “ADJ” above *a*, *an*, and *the*. These are always adjectives.
- Write “ADJ” above most possessive nouns and possessive pronouns according to these rules:
 - Write “ADJ” above any possessive noun that describes a thing rather than names it. This kind of possessive noun is always an adjective.
 - DO NOT write “ADJ” above a possessive noun that names a thing on its own.
 - See the first column below for help with the difference between describing and naming.
- Write “ADJ” above the possessive pronouns *our*, *your*, *their*, and *my*. These are always adjectives.
- Look for *her* and *his* and *its*, and determine how they are used:
 - When used to show possession, consider them adjectives, and write “ADJ” above them. That is how they are used most often.
 - However, they are sometimes used as personal pronouns, in which case they are NOT adjectives, and you will write “PN” above them.
 - See the middle column below for help with the two ways *his* and *her* and *its* can be used.
- Write “N” above other nouns and “PN” above other pronouns. See the last column below for a list of personal pronouns.
- Write “V” above verbs.
 - Look for helping verbs first.
 - Look for linking verbs second.
 - Look for action verbs last.
 - Use your verb lists if necessary.
- Write “ADJ” above the remaining adjectives—words that modify nouns and pronouns by telling which noun or pronoun is referred to (such as “*two* people,” “*the green* car,” “*a satisfying* meal”). Remember to look for adjectives that are linked back to nouns and pronouns by linking verbs (“I am *tired*,” “that sounded *loud*”).

These are <u>always</u> adjectives:	These are <u>sometimes</u> adjectives:	These are <u>never</u> adjectives:
<p>1) These four POSSESSIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS are always adjectives even though they are called “pronouns” on a list before they are used in a sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - our - your - their - my <p>2) POSSESSIVE NOUNS that <i>describe</i> a thing are adjectives even though they are called “possessive nouns” when they are before they are used in a sentence. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - George’s pet - the pig’s food - the Smiths’ mailbox <p>When a possessive noun names a thing, it is NOT an adjective, but instead is a noun. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let’s go to George’s. - This food is the pig’s. - The red mailbox is the Smiths’. 	<p>These three POSSESSIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS are usually, but not always, adjectives even though they are called “pronouns” on a list before they are used in a sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - her - his - its <p>When possessive, they are adjectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She lost her pen. - He ate his lunch. <p>When <i>his</i> or <i>her</i> or <i>its</i> names a thing, it is a personal pronoun and NOT an adjective. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give it to her. - The trophy is his. - That collar is its. 	<p>1) These ten PERSONAL PRONOUNS and five POSSESSIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS are always pronouns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - us, we ours - you yours - they, them theirs - I, me mine - it - him - she hers <p>2) PREPOSITIONS are never adjectives. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in - by - of - on - for - through - to <p>See your “Grammar Help Sheet” for a longer list.</p> <p>3) CONJUNCTIONS are never adjectives. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - and - or - but - so - then <p>See your “Grammar Help Sheet” for a longer list.</p>