Adjectives and Adverbs

Lecture 9
Identifying adjectives

• an attribute of a noun, e.g. cold weather, large windows, violent storms, etc.

• -able/ible; -al; -ful, etc., e.g. achievable/ illegible; functional; beautiful; terrific; etc.

• no typical adjectival suffix: bad, bright, clever, etc.
Types of adjectives

A. Qualitative adjectives
   i. Evaluative (subjective: pretty, charming, horrible, etc.);
   ii. Descriptive (objective: big, round, young, tired, afraid, etc.);

B. Colour adjectives (blue, red, white);

C. Participles (frightened, frightening);

D. Emphasizing adjectives (complete, utter, bloody);

E. Limiters (certain, chief, entire);

F. Adjectives denoting style/origin/material (Edwardian/Japanese/wooden);
Gradability (adjectives and adverbs)

- Suffixation: 
  - Comparatives: -er (e.g., hot – hotter – hottest)
  - Superlatives: -est (e.g., fast – fastest)
- Modification:
  - Comparatives: more (e.g., fast – faster)
  - Superlatives: most (e.g., sooner – soonest)

Suffixes are used with:
- Disyllabic adj. ending in -y/-le/-er: happy, noble, clever; also narrow, shallow;
All other gradable adjectives and adverbs are marked for comparison by modification with *more* and *most*.


- Adverbs with irregular comparative and superlative forms: *well* – *better* – *best*, *ill* – *worse* – *worst*, *little* – *less* – *least*, *far* – *farther/ further* – *farthest/ furthest*. 
Predicative position

• the Head of an adjective phrase which functions as a **subject predicative** - *The room is spacious.* vs. *the spacious room*

• **only** occur in predicative position: *afraid, akin, alike, ashamed, asleep, awake, aware*, etc.
Most adjectives can occur as **modifiers**.

The adjectives which can only occur in attributive position are non-gradable.

**Denominal adjectives** are typically non-gradable: *medical, nuclear*, etc., also

**Emphasizing adjectives**, e.g. *utter, total*, etc. and

**Limiters**, e.g. *main, entire, certain*, etc.
Postmodifying adjectives

- Postmodifying adjectives and adjective phrases can be regarded as derived from postmodifying clauses:

  - *something sufficient* – *something that is/was sufficient*
  - *an actress famous in the 1990s* – *an actress who was famous in the 1990s*
Adjectives with nominal function

• Completely substantivized adjectives have all the grammatical features of nouns:
  *The car is convertible. → He is driving a convertible.*
  *He is a brave warrior. → The painting shows two Indian braves.*

• Partially substantivized adjectives are typically with generic reference and combine with plural verb forms:
  *The unemployed were taken out of the city.*
  *The rich are different from you and me.*
Order of premodifying elements

1. Limiters (certain, same, main, entire);
2. Emphasizing adjectives (complete, utter, bloody);
3. Qualitative adjectives:
   Evaluative (excellent, pretty, great, poor, splendid, etc.);
   Descriptive: size (little, big, etc.), shape (round, square, etc.), age (young, old, etc.);
1. Colour adjectives/participles (white, red, writing, broken, etc.);
2. Origin/style/material (Swiss chocolate, a Victorian house, a wooden chair)
3. Classifying modifiers:
   a. Classifying (denominal) adjectives (cardiac arrest, urban dialect, herbaceous border, runic inscription, etc.);
   b. Uninflected nouns (bronze statue, atom bomb, city dweller, sales department, etc.);
   c. Classifying genitives (ploughman’s lunch, a master’s degree, goat’s cheese, etc.)
speaker’s opinion inherent characteristics

those two splendid old wooden tables
Adverbs

• Mary sings beautifully.
• The cruise ship was incredibly huge.
• We arrived fairly quickly.
• the suffix –ly: easy – easily, dry – dryly;
• adjectives ending in -ly – no suffix -/ly can be added: early, friendly;
• adverbs of no adjectival origin do not share morphological characteristics, e.g. again, always, often, sometimes, etc.
**Adverbs with double forms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The story just gets deeper and deeper.</th>
<th>I am deeply concerned by the lack of progress.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He works really hard.</td>
<td>He could hardly read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The windows were high in the wall.</td>
<td>Reviewers speak very highly of them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let me get a little closer.</td>
<td>Lizzie examined her closely.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gradability

• John works *hard*. Mary works *harder*. I work *hardest*.

• *recently, more recently, most recently*;

• some adverbs are irregular:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverb</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>well</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>badly</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>little</td>
<td>less</td>
<td>least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much</td>
<td>more</td>
<td>most</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of adverbs

• Degree adverbs (e.g. very, quite, rather, unusually, enough, etc.);

• Focusing adverbs (even, only, just, especially, particularly, etc.);

• Negative and restrictive adverbs (never, hardly, scarcely, almost, nearly, etc.)

• Adverbial particles (e.g. up, down, in, out, under, over): He climbed up the hill.

• Circumstantial adverbs (here, now, therefore, thus, etc.)