ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE
Writing Center

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives	Adjectives modify (describe) nouns and pronouns. Adjectives answer the questions: **what kind? how many? which?**

Example without adjectives:	William bought a car.
The reader does not know if it is a new car or an old car, the color of the car, the make and model, etc.	
Example with adjectives:	William bought a **brand new, red** Corvette.
In this case, Corvette is the noun, and *brand new* and *red* are the adjectives that modify it. Now the reader has a clear picture of *what kind* of car William bought.	

Example without adjectives:	The instructor required the students to buy books for the class.
Example with adjectives:	The **English** instructor required the students to buy **three** books for the class.

In this sentence, the word *English* is a proper adjective***** that tells the reader what kind of instructor he or she is while the adjective *three* tells the reader *how many* books are required for the class.
    ***Proper adjectives are adjectives that are used to specifically describe an important
        noun. They are always capitalized.**	

Adjectives usually come **before the noun** they modify.
However, when an adjective is working as a *subject complement,* it comes **after** the word it modifies, **after** a linking verb, and describes the **subject.**

Example of a subject complement:	Joshua's trip to Alaska was *exciting*, *terrifying*, and *educational*.
In this sentence, Joshua's trip is the subject of the sentence; was is the linking verb; and **exciting, terrifying**, and **educational** are the adjectives describing Joshua's trip.	