

Unit 95

Adjectives: word order ('a nice new house')

Adjectives after verbs ('Do you feel tired?')

a Sometimes we use two or more adjectives together:

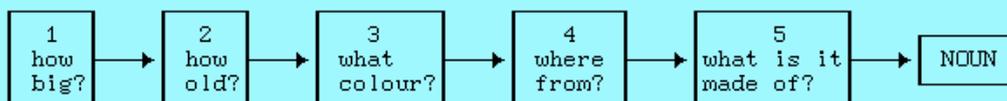
- Tom lives in a **nice new** house.
- In the kitchen there was a **beautiful large round wooden** table.

Adjectives like **new/large/round/wooden** are *fact* adjectives. They give us objective information about something (age, size, colour etc.). Adjectives like **nice/beautiful** are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what someone thinks of something.

Opinion adjectives usually go before *fact* adjectives:

	<i>opinion</i>	<i>fact</i>	
a	nice	sunny	day
	delicious	hot	soup
an	intelligent	young	man
a	beautiful	large round wooden	table

b Sometimes there are two or more *fact* adjectives. Very often (but not always) we put *fact* adjectives in this order:



- a **tall young** man (1 → 2)
- a **large wooden** table (1 → 5)
- big blue** eyes (1 → 3)
- an **old Russian** song (2 → 4)
- a **small black plastic** bag (1 → 3 → 5)
- an **old white cotton** shirt (2 → 3 → 5)

Adjectives of size and length (**big/small/tall/short/long** etc.) usually go before adjectives of shape and width (**round/fat/thin/slim/wide** etc.):

a **large round** table a **tall thin** girl a **long narrow** street

c We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially **be/get/become**:

- Are you tired?**
- Be careful!**
- I'm getting hungry.**

We also use adjectives after: **feel smell taste sound seem look**:

- Do you **feel tired**?
- The dinner **smells good**.
- Tom **sounded angry** when I spoke to him on the phone.
- This tea **tastes a bit strange**.
- Your friend **seems very nice**.

But after other verbs you must use an *adverb* (see also **Units 96 and 97**):

- **Drive carefully!** (*not* 'drive careful')
- Susan **plays the piano very well**. (*not* 'plays ... very good')
- Tom **shouted at me angrily**. (*not* 'shouted ... angry')

Look We use an adjective after **look** when it means **seem**:

- Tom **looked sad** when I saw him.

But after **look at** we use an adverb:

- Tom **looked at me sadly**. (*not* 'looked at me sad')

