

Nouns as Adjectives

A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea. An adjective is a word that describes a noun.

big house
adj. noun

cold weather
adj. noun

fresh paint
adj. noun

good idea
adj. noun

In English, an adjective is normally placed before the noun it describes. Also, an adjective is never plural, even when it describes a plural noun.

The busy student studies from morning until night.
adj. noun

The busy students study from morning until night
adj. noun

We can sometimes use a noun as an adjective. That means we can use a noun to describe another noun. In such cases, the noun must be placed before the noun it describes and it is never plural.

In the following examples, *bus*, which is normally a noun, is used as an adjective to describe the nouns *route* and *routes*.

There is a bus route near my house.
adj. noun

There are bus routes near my house.
adj. noun

Sometimes we use a number and a noun together as an adjective. Like all adjectives, this type of adjective comes before the noun and is never plural.

I wrote a ten-page report.
adj. noun

We live in a three-story building.
adj. noun

Directions: Rewrite each sentence using the underlined noun as an adjective.

Example: I bought these boots at a store that sells shoes.
I bought these boots at a shoe store.

1. These chairs made of plastic are not very comfortable.
2. I live in a house that has a garage big enough for two cars.
3. These roads made of dirt get very muddy in the spring.
4. I am going to bake a pie with peaches.
5. We enjoyed taking a walk through the garden filled with flowers.
6. If you buy a ticket for fifteen dollars, you will have to sit in the balcony.
7. I am going to order a new table for my kitchen.
8. The streets of the city are always filled with traffic.
9. We will have our meeting in the room for conferences.
10. This is a warm coat for the winter.

Answers

1. These plastic chairs are not very comfortable.
2. I live in a house that has a two-car garage.
3. These dirt roads get very muddy in the spring.
4. I am going to bake a peach pie.
5. We enjoyed taking a walk through the flower garden.
6. If you buy a fifteen-dollar ticket, you will have to sit in the balcony.
7. I am going to order a new kitchen table.
8. The city streets are always filled with traffic.
9. We will have our meeting in the conference room.
10. This is a warm winter coat.