

# The Most Common English Adjectives

If you want to quickly expand your English vocabulary, adjectives are a great place to start! Adjectives are a really important part of speech. **An adjective is a word used to describe a noun.**

It is a good idea to focus on the most common ones in the language. Below are lists of the 50 most common words in both American and British English.

## 50 Most Common Adjectives in American English

No.	Adjective
1	OTHER
2	NEW
3	GOOD
4	AMERICAN
5	GREAT
6	BIG
7	HIGH
8	OLD
9	DIFFERENT
10	NATIONAL
11	SMALL
12	LITTLE
13	BLACK
14	IMPORTANT
15	POLITICAL
16	SOCIAL
17	LONG
18	YOUNG
19	RIGHT
20	BEST
21	REAL
22	WHITE
23	PUBLIC
24	SURE
25	ONLY
26	LARGE
27	ABLE
28	HUMAN
29	LOCAL
30	EARLY
31	BAD
32	BETTER
33	ECONOMIC
34	FREE

- 35 POSSIBLE
- 36 WHOLE
- 37 MAJOR
- 38 MILITARY
- 39 FEDERAL
- 40 INTERNATIONAL
- 41 TRUE
- 42 FULL
- 43 HARD
- 44 SPECIAL
- 45 RECENT
- 46 RED
- 47 OPEN
- 48 PERSONAL
- 49 GENERAL
- 50 CLEAR

**50 Most Common Adjectives  
in British English**

- | <b>No.</b> | <b>Adjective</b> |
|------------|------------------|
|------------|------------------|

- 26 FULL
- 27 EARLY
- 28 BEST
- 29 BIG
- 30 MAIN
- 31 MAJOR
- 32 ECONOMIC
- 33 SURE
- 34 REAL
- 35 LIKELY
- 36 BLACK
- 37 PARTICULAR
- 38 INTERNATIONAL
- 39 SPECIAL
- 40 DIFFICULT
- 41 CERTAIN
- 42 CLEAR
- 43 WHOLE
- 44 FURTHER
- 45 WHITE
- 46 OPEN
- 47 EUROPEAN
- 48 FREE
- 49 CENTRAL
- 50 SIMILAR

Most of the most common adjectives are the same in the US and the UK (78% of the top 50 and 92% of the top 25 words appear in both lists). Notice that *American* is the 4th most common adjective in American English and *British* is the 13th most common adjective in British English. We shouldn't read too much into these simple lists, but it is interesting to note that *military*, *federal*, and *personal* all appear in the American list. Do you notice any other patterns?