

# High-Intermediate 3

## Modification of Nouns

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Determiner	Possessive Amplifier	Numbers		Adjectives							Nouns as Modifiers		
		Ordinal Number	Cardinal Number	General Quality	size	Age	Shape	Color	Origin & Nationality	Past Participle	Material	Function Noun	Head Noun
My	own	second	three	beautiful	large	new	rectangular	blue	Chinese	Hand-made	cotton	summer	shirts
The		First	Two	ugly	small	old	round	red	Iranian	selected	leather	winter	shirt
A(n)		third	ten	interesting	short		oval	purple	oriental		silk		
David's											denim		
This/That											polyester		
These/Those										velvet			

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**Point:**

A noun can be modified by another noun.

**Examples:**

*the classroom window* => The noun “classroom” is modifying the noun “window”.

*the school yard* => The noun “school” is modifying the noun “yard”.

*air pressure* => The noun “air” is modifying the noun “pressure”.

**Point:**

When two nouns modify a head noun, the noun which shows the function should be closer to the head noun than the noun which shows the material. In other words, the material precedes the function.

Examples:

the cotton summer shirt

- Function: summer
- Material: cotton

Nouns as Modifiers		
Material	Function Noun	Head Noun
cotton	summer	shirts
leather	winter	shirt
silk		
denim		
polyester		
velvet		

**Sample Questions:**

He bought a ..... shirt.

- a) large beautiful blue
- b) blue large beautiful
- c) beautiful large blue
- d) beautiful blue large

**The Right Answer: c**

beautiful => **general quality adjective**

large => **size**

blue => **color**

Adjectives						
General Quality	size	Age	Shape	Color	Origin & Nationality	Past Participle
beautiful	large	new	rectangular	blue	Chinese	Hand-made
ugly	small	old	round	red	Iranian	selected
interesting	short		oval	purple	oriental	

Tom is interested in ..... cars.

- a) big fast American
- b) fast big American
- c) big American fast
- d) fast American big

**The Right Answer: b**

fast => **general quality adjective**

big => **size**

American => **origin & nationality**

In this shop, we sell ..... carpets.

- a) hand-woven silk Turkish
- b) hand-woven Turkish silk
- c) Turkish silk hand-woven
- d) Turkish hand-woven silk

**The Right Answer: d**

Turkish => **Origin & Nationality**

hand-woven => **Past Participle**

silk => **Material**

**Point:**

If two general quality adjectives precede a head noun, a comma should separate the two adjectives and the adjective which is more important should be closer to the head noun.

The comma which separates the two adjectives functions like the word “and”.

Examples:

*a handsome, intelligent student*

*a stylish, powerful computer*

**Point:**

Ordinal numbers precede cardinal numbers in modification of nouns.

Examples:

*the first three lessons*

*the second two cars*

*the third ten soldiers*

## Compound Modifiers

### **Point:**

If there is a cardinal number in a compound modifier, the noun which follows it has to be singular.

**Don't Say:** a fifteen-years-old boy

**Say:** a fifteen-year-old boy

**Don't Say:** a four-stories building

**Say:** a four-story building