Multiple Adjectives

**Objectives**

In this mini-lesson, students will:

- Identify multiple adjectives in sentences.
- Determine when to use commas between multiple adjectives.
- Write sentences using multiple adjectives.

**Preparation**

**Materials Needed**

- Chart paper and markers
- Multiple Adjectives (BLM 4)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

**Advanced Preparation**

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text and the practice text (without commas) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

**1. Focus**

**Explain the Use of Multiple Adjectives**

_Say:_ In research reports, writers sometimes use more than one adjective to describe a single noun. This can make the writing more descriptive or informative. In some cases, a comma must be placed between two adjectives. When we need to decide if a comma should be placed between the adjectives, we can ask ourselves two questions: “Can I replace the comma with the word and?” and “Can I reverse the order of the adjectives and keep the same meaning?” If the answer to both of these questions is yes, then a comma should be used to separate the adjectives.

**Model Using Multiple Adjectives**

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read the text aloud. _Say:_ Let’s look at two options for separating multiple adjectives in a sentence.

| 1. The chaotic, bargaining activities in the market can be overwhelming to anyone. |
| 2. The chaotic bargaining activities in the market can be overwhelming to anyone. |

**Modeling Text**

_Say:_ In both of these sentences, the phrase with two adjectives is the chaotic bargaining activities. In sentence 1, there is a comma between chaotic and bargaining. I ask myself the two questions to identify which sentence is correct: “Can I replace the comma with the word and?” and “Can I reverse the order of the adjectives and keep the same meaning?” If I replace the comma in the first sentence with the word _and_, the sentence becomes, “The chaotic and bargaining activities can be overwhelming to anyone.” This doesn’t make sense. So the answer to the first question is no. What about the second question? I will reverse the order of the adjectives. “The bargaining chaotic activities can be overwhelming to anyone.” This doesn’t make sense, either, so the answer to the second question is no. I answered no to both questions, so I know there shouldn’t be a comma between the adjectives. Sentence 2 is correct.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Multiple Adjectives

Display the practice text (without commas) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with partners to identify the multiple adjectives used in each practice sentence and to decide whether or not a comma is needed between the adjectives. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

1. The small, remote country lacked even paved roads.
2. The idea to construct such a major transportation system dates back to 1959.
3. Large, powerful countries such as India, Russia, and China already have highway systems.

Practice Text

Share Sentences with Multiple Adjectives

Invite partners to share which adjectives they identified in the sentences. Ask volunteers to tell where they would insert commas to separate adjectives in the sentences. Discuss their choices.

- **Sentence 1:** Why do we put a comma between small and remote?
- **Sentence 2:** How can you tell we don’t need a comma between major and transportation?
- **Sentence 3:** How did you decide whether to put a comma between large and powerful?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that multiple adjectives can be used to describe a single person, place, or thing in a sentence. This can help writers make research reports descriptive and informative. Sometimes, commas are used to separate the adjectives when they appear in the same sentence. Remember to ask yourself the two questions we learned in the beginning of the lesson when you need to decide whether or not to use commas to separate adjectives in the same sentence.

If you would like to give students additional practice identifying multiple adjectives, have them complete BLM 4.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 4. Ask students to share what they learned about using multiple adjectives.

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Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Beginning ELs are not ready to work on this English grammar skill. While other students collaborate on the “Practice Using Multiple Adjectives” activity or write independently, meet one on one with students to support developmentally appropriate grammar skills based on their independent writing and language levels. For example, you may want to work with students’ use of single adjectives to describe a person, place, or thing.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the practice sentences and the BLM.