Adjectives

1. Focus

Explain Adjectives

Say: Adjectives are words that describe, or modify, nouns and pronouns. For example, in the phrase the tiny ant, the word tiny describes what the ant is like. Adjectives tell us what kind, which one, how much, or how many of something. Adjectives can help make the directions in a procedural text clearer.

Write the following chart on chart paper to provide further examples of adjectives (in bold).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Kind/Which One?</th>
<th>How Many/How Much?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>red nose</td>
<td>four children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>square door</td>
<td>many lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third child</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example Adjectives Chart

Model Using Adjectives

Display the following text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read the text aloud to students.

Use a green marker to underline the adjectives and a red marker to circle the nouns. Look for three adjectives.

Modeling Text

Say: I want to make these directions clear, so I use adjectives. I tell my writers which color to use—green—to underline and which color to use to circle the nouns. I also tell the readers how many adjectives to look for.
2. Rehearse

Practice Adjectives

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with a partner to identify the adjectives in each sentence. Encourage them to discuss why adjectives are important in these sentences. (Students do not need to copy the sentences.)

Chop one red pepper into small pieces.
Put the chopped red pepper into a small bowl.
Mash a soft avocado into a smooth paste.
Add the mashed avocado to the bowl.

Share Adjectives

Invite pairs to share the adjectives they found with the class. Use the following prompts to help students discuss the importance of adjectives.

- Why is it important to tell how many peppers to use, or which color pepper to use?
- Why do you think it might be important to give the direction to use a soft avocado?

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Work with students one on one to help them with adjectives. Provide one type of object in different colors, for example, pens or pencils. Describe each item, using an adjective: a red pencil, a yellow pencil, etc. Write the adjectives on self-stick notes and label the pencils. You could also use objects of different sizes to model these types of adjectives.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to identify adjectives. Use these sentence frames to help students discuss adjectives with their partners and the class:

______ is an adjective.
This adjective tells ______.

In many languages, such as Vietnamese, adjectives follow nouns and pronouns. Vietnamese-speaking students may produce sentences with word order that is unusual in English. For example, a student may write “Mark saw birds beautiful” instead of “Mark saw beautiful birds.” Remind students that in English, single-word adjectives usually precede the noun.

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete BLM 7.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: When you write instructions, you have to be very precise. You have to think about exactly what kind of materials someone should use, and exactly how they should do something. You can use adjectives to help you be very precise. Remember to use adjectives to describe nouns when you write your directions. Using adjectives will help your readers follow the directions more carefully.

If you would like to give students additional practice identifying adjectives in sentences, have them complete BLM 7.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud the rewritten sentences from BLM 7. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback.