**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 7)
- 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:** Adjectives are words writers use to describe nouns. Sometimes, writers of research reports use more than one adjective to describe a single noun. Doing so can help them make reports more descriptive and informative. When we use multiple adjectives for a noun, we need to decide whether or not to place a comma between the adjectives. Some phrases with multiple adjectives require this. We can test whether to place the comma between two adjectives by asking the following: (write the questions as you say them) “Can you replace the comma with the word and? Can you 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 tourists are going to attend a local wedding feast.
2. The tourists are going to attend a local, wedding feast.

**Modeling Text**

**Say:** Both of these sentences contain the same words. However, the second sentence has a comma separating local and wedding. Both of the words, local and wedding, are adjectives in this sentence. Should they have a comma in between them? I ask myself the two questions from earlier in the lesson. Can I replace the comma with and? This makes the sentence into, “The tourists are going to a local and wedding feast.” This doesn’t make sense. So the answer to the first question is no. I ask myself the second question: Can I reverse the order of the adjectives and keep the same meaning? This makes the sentence, “The tourists are going to a wedding local feast,” which also doesn’t make sense. I answered no to both questions, so I decide not to put a comma between the adjectives. Sentence 1 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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The villagers live in gray stone houses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The snowy, cold Hunza Valley is a remote area of land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The women make sparkling silver jewelry to sell.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Ask the following questions:

- Which sentence should include a comma between the adjectives?
- Why do we not use a comma between the adjectives in the other sentences?

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.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We learned that writers of research reports often use multiple adjectives to describe a person, place, or thing in a sentence. Sometimes, writers must use commas to separate the adjectives that modify a noun. To test whether to use a comma, we can ask the two questions learned in this lesson.

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

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 7. Ask students to share what they learned about using multiple adjectives in a single phrase.