



GRAMMAR: ADJECTIVES

AGREEMENT

Rule One: Shortened Forms	<p>If the adjective is grande or cualquiera, then it is shortened to gran or cualquier before any singular noun unless there is an intervening conjunction or preposition or más or menos precede it, in which case Rule Two applies.</p> <p>If the adjective is alguno bueno malo ninguno primero tercero, then it is shortened to algún, buen, mal, ningún, primer, tercer before a masculine singular (“m.s.”) noun, unless there is an intervening conjunction or adverb, in which case Rules Two and Three apply as appropriate.</p>
Rule Two: Number Agreement Only	<p>If the adjective has a masculine singular (“m.s.”) ending of a consonant or a, e, í, ú then, subject to Rule Three, the adjective agrees in number only with the noun it qualifies.</p> <p>Plural (“pl.”) formed by adding –es unless m.s ends in –a or –e, in which case an –s is added.</p>
Rule Three: Number and Gender Agreement	<p>If the adjective ends in o, ote, ete, án, és, ín, ón, or, or is español or andaluz then the adjective agrees in gender and number with the noun it qualifies.</p> <p>To make the adjective agree, generally –a replaces the final vowel to make feminine singular (“f.s.”), –s is added to the final vowel to make masculine plural (“m.pl.”), –as replaces the final vowel to make feminine plural (“f.pl.”). But if the adjective ends in án, és, ín, ón, or, or is español or andaluz then any accent is removed –a, –es, –as are added respectively.</p> <p>But if the adjective is one of cortés, descortés, montés, afín, marrón, anterior, exterior, inferior, interior, mayor, mejor, peor, posterior, superior, ulterior then Rule Two applies.</p>
Rule Four: Invariable Adjectives	<p>If the adjective is formed from a noun then it tends to be invariable. If this word also describes a colour, and is rarely used as an adjective, then de color + adj is used and the adjective is invariable</p>

POSITION

Rule One: Position and Meaning

Certain adjectives change their meaning according to their position in relation to the noun they qualify:

Adjective	Before Noun	After Noun
antiguo	former or ancient	ancient
medio	half	average
pobre	wretched	not wealthy
puro	sheer	clean
raro	rare	strange, rare
varios	several	assorted, various

Rule Two: Adjectives After the Noun

Seven indications of post-posed adjectives:

1. Those that create a new type or sub-set;
2. Those used for the purposes of contrast (explicit or implied), except Ordinal Number adjectives;
3. Scientific or technical adjectives;
4. Attributive Adjectives;
5. Adjectives of Nationality;
6. Adjectives when used with a particular stress in English; or
7. Invariable Adjectives of Colour.

Rule Three: Adjectives Before the Noun

Seven indications of pre-posed adjectives:

1. Emphasis of emotional content
2. Impression, Assessment, Evaluation
3. Shape, distance, size, colour, texture, passage of time, praise, blame
4. Epithets (An adjective describing qualities typically associated with the noun)
5. Adjectives unambiguously referring to every one of the items denoted by a plural noun
6. Intensifiers, hyperboles, swear words
7. Certain adjectives occur in front of the noun only:

Ambos	Both
Llamados/as	So-called
Mucho	A lot
Otro	Another
Pocas veces	Rarely
Sediciente	Self-styled