

22. HOW TO TELL NOUNS FROM ADJECTIVES

	BY FUNCTION	BY POSITION IN A SENTENCE	BY WORD ENDING	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOUNS	<p>Nouns identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Persons ■ Places ■ Things ■ Concepts (e.g., <i>unity</i>) ■ Activities (e.g., <i>studying</i>) <p>Nouns can be the subject or object of a sentence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Wars</i> are destructive. ■ The rain destroyed the <i>plants</i>. 	<p>Before and/or after a verb</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The <u>students</u> passed the <u>exam</u>.</i></p> <p>After an adjective</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Marriage is a traditional <u>institution</u>.</i></p> <p>At the end of a prepositional phrase</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I am interested in <u>science</u>.</i></p>	<p>Nouns can be plural. (e.g., <i>concepts, ideas</i>)</p> <p>Many nouns have typical word endings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>education</i> ■ <i>happiness</i> ■ <i>likelihood</i> ■ <i>relationship</i> 	<p>A noun can function as an adjective by describing another noun that comes after it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A penitentiary is an institution where felons serve their <u>prison</u> terms.</i> (The noun <i>prison</i> functions as an adjective.)</p>
ADJECTIVES	<p>Adjectives describe nouns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>An internship is a <u>great</u> opportunity to acquire <u>useful</u> skills.</i></p> <p>They describe pronouns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The witness did not understand the lawyers' question because it was <u>ambiguous</u>.</i></p>	<p>Before a noun</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The <u>Electoral</u> College is a complicated system for electing a U.S. president.</i></p> <p>After the verbs <i>seem, look, sound</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Her ideas sound <u>controversial</u>.</i> ■ <i>Many citizens seem <u>unhappy</u> with their government.</i> 	<p>Adjectives are never plural.</p> <p>Many adjectives have typical word endings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>understandable</i> ■ <i>curious</i> ■ <i>academic</i> ■ <i>educational</i> ■ <i>respectful</i> 	<p>Adjectives can sometimes be formed by adding <i>-ed</i> or <i>-ing</i> to the simple form of the verb.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For the verb <i>confuse</i>, you can create the adjectives: <i>confused</i> and <i>confusing</i>.</p>