

Describing places adjective word order practice

Work in groups of two or three. Choose a different natural place from the list below. Each describe your (real or imaginary) natural place with one positive adjective, then take turns making your descriptions longer and longer by adding adjectives (also repeating the adjectives from the previous turns). When the teacher stops the game, vote on which of whose natural places sounds best. Then do the same with other natural places.

- beach/ coast
- campsite
- cave
- cliff
- cottage
- desert/ dunes
- estuary/ delta
- farm
- farm house
- field/ meadow
- forest/ wood/ copse
- glacier
- harbour/ bay/ port/ gulf
- hiking route
- hill/ mountain volcano
- island/ peninsular
- jungle
- lake/ pond/ lagoon
- lane
- mountain range
- path
- peak/ plateau
- plain
- rain forest
- river/ stream
- rock (formation)
- scenery/ view
- slope
- spring
- stately home/ mansion/ manor house
- tree/ bush/ hedgerow
- valley/ canyon
- village/ hamlet
- waterfall

Ask about any words above which you can't understand, working together as a class to describe those things each time.

Suggested adjectives for describing natural places

Use any adjectives below which you haven't used already to describe the places above.

- active
- amazing/ impressive/ incredible
- ancient
- authentic
- beautiful/ gorgeous/ stunning
- bubbling
- charming
- colourful
- crystal clear
- deep
- delightful
- dramatic
- enormous/ huge/ massive
- evergreen
- exotic
- extinct
- far-flung
- fertile
- gentle
- golden
- granite
- green/ emerald-green
- historic
- holy
- iconic
- impeccable/ perfect
- inaccessible
- interesting
- large
- lazy
- mysterious
- odd/ strange/ weird/ unusual/ unique
- old-fashioned
- organic
- panoramic
- picturesque/ photogenic
- pretty
- pure
- quaint
- red
- remote/ isolated
- roaring
- rolling
- sandy
- scenic

- slow moving
- snow-capped
- sun-drenched
- thatched
- tiny
- traditional
- tropical/ semi-tropical
- untamed
- untouched/ well-preserved
- white
- wide
- wild
- wind-swept
- world-famous

Ask about any words above which you don't understand, working together to match them to natural places each time.

Adjective word order grammar presentation

What is the general rule for adjective word order?

Do factual adjectives or opinion adjectives go closer to the noun (= later in the sentence)?

Combine some adjectives from above with a noun, see which order seems most natural, and check that it matches the rule that you discussed above.

Do the same activity for towns or places in towns, making sure that you use the right adjective word order each time.

Suggested things to describe in cities

... quarter/... area/... zone
amusement arcade
amusement park/ theme park
avenue
botanical garden
boutique/ designer shops
bridge
casino
castle/ palace
church/ cathedral/ mosque/ synagogue/ temple/ shrine
cinema/ movie theater
(capital) city
city walls
clock tower
department store
gate
high-rise building/ skyscraper
house/ mansion
main street/ high street
market/ supermarket
museum/ gallery
night life/ night club
office building
palace
park/ garden/ green space
parliament/ house of representatives/ senate
pavement/ sidewalk
port
riverside/ seafront/ promenade
shopping mall
shopping street
skyline
skyscraper district/ business district
square
station
suburbs/ outskirts
town centre/ city centre
town hall/ city hall
village/ hamlet
zoo/ safari park

Suggested adjectives for describing cities

ancient
buzzing/ busy/ crowded
charming
cheap/ reasonable
clean
colourful
compact
cosmopolitan
cutting edge
delightful
exciting
exotic
famous/ infamous
fashionable
historic
holy
large
lively
low-rise
modern
modernist
panoramic
pretty
safe
stylish
traditional
trendy
undiscovered
varied
welcoming/ friendly
world-famous
world-leading