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Liiv, Helga

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Autor: stud. phil
Helga Liiv

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ACCIDENCE AND SYNTAX OF THE A D J E C T I V E IN
P R E S E N T D A Y E N G L I S H .

(Based on Original Collections.)



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P r e f a c e :

The object of the present paper is to give a brief survey of the adj. and its main functions in present day English. The examples on which the statements given here are based, have been collected from works of modern authors ; and also newspaper English has been taken into consideration. With regard to colloquial speech, it has been taken into account only in so far as it is used by the authors.

List of Books :

Deutschbein Max : Grammatik der englischen Sprache
für höhere Schulen auf wissenschaft-
licher Grundlage . Leipzig , 1930.

Jespersen Otto : A Modern English Grammar on Historical
Principles II . Heidelberg. 1927.

Sweet Henry : A New English Grammar I - II . Oxford 1925.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary . Oxford , 1929.

Anthology of Modern English Poetry . Tauchnitz Edition,
Vol. 5000. Leipzig, 1931'

Daily Mail, September 28th, 1932.

Galsworthy John : A Family Man and Other Plays. Tauchnitz
Edition, Vol. 4596. Leipzig.

Huxley Aldous : Two or Three Graces and Other Stories.
Tauchnitz Edition, Vol. 4810.
Leipzig, 1928.

Lawrence D.H.: The Woman Who Rode Away. Tauchnitz Edition,
Vol. 4877 . Leipzig 1929.

Macaulay Rose : A Casual Comment^eary. Tauchnitz Edition,
Vol. 4717. Leipzig. 1926.

Shaw Bernard: The Four Pleasant Plays . Tauchnitz Edition,
Vol. 4472. Leipzig .
(The) Three Plays for Puritans. Tauchnitz Ed.
Vol. 4531. Leipzig.

Wells H.G. : The New Macchiavelli . Tauchnitz Edition:
Vol. 4251, 4252. Leipzig , 1920.

Wilde Oscar: A House of Pom^egranates . Tauchnitz Edition,
Vol. 4095. Leipzig, 1919.

A b b r e v i a t i o n s :

- A. = Anthology of Modern English Poetry.
D.M. = Daily Mail.
G. = Galsworthy : A Family Man.
H. = Huxley : Three Graces.
L. = Lawrence : The Woman Who Rode Away.
M. = Macaulay: A Casual Commentary.
Sh.Pl. = Shaw: Pleasant Plays.
Sh. P. = Shaw: Plays for Puritans.
W.I = Wells: The New Macchiavelly , I vol.
W. II = Wells : The New Macchiavelly, II vol.
Wld. = Wilde: A House of Pomgranates.
adj. = adjective.
subst. = substantives.
sing. = singular.
pl. - plural:
adv. = adverb.

The numbers given refer to pages.

D.M. - 6.4. = Daily Mail , page 6. , column 4.

D. = Deutschbein.
J. = Jespersen.
S. = Sheet.

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I Accidente :

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- 2) Substantives Used as Adjectives.....25.
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The development of a language never comes to a stand. There is a tendency of simplification to be found in the development of languages. Simplicity is considered to be a product of civilization. It is found also in art where it is a mere question of beauty, whereas in a language it is more a question of convenience. Endings which become weak in meaning are dropped. In this respect the English language has gone farthest. It has freed itself from the ballast of useless inflections, and has retained only the essential ones. The process of simplification in English has been a very slow one. Firstly the full endings of the Old English period were levelled and then gradually dropped. The period of lost inflections is the Modern English period.

The loss of inflections has caused also considerable changes in syntax. Word-order which in Old English was quite free, has become much stricter. The process of simplification and the syntactic changes it has caused, are most apparent in the development of the adjective.

The word adjective is of Latin origin. It comes from the Latin word *adjectivum* which is derived from the verb *ad-jicere*, and means "something added". From the grammatical point of view, an adjective is a word which adds to the meaning of

a noun, pronoun, or any other part of speech used for a noun. From that point of view the part of speech called adjective may be defined thus:

An adjective is a word used for modifying a noun, pronoun, or noun-equivalent.

With regard to their origin ^{adj.} may be classified in the following way:

I

- 1) Original adjectives: blind, good, much etc.
- 2) Derivative adjectives, (adj. which are formed from other parts of speech by means of derivative endings); beautiful, available, English, wooden etc.

Participles and adverbs which are used to modify nouns or their equivalents are considered to be real adjectives.

Nouns also very often assume the functions of adj.. As we shall see later on, there are cases in which complete conversion of a noun into an adj. has taken place.

Pronouns and numerals also occur as attributes to nouns. But as the pronominal character is still strong in them, they differ in their use from adjectives proper, and therefore ^{be} will not be dealt with in the present paper.

The adj. which in former periods of the English language admitted of endings to express gender, number and case, is now uninflected. A variation in its use is no longer expressed by a variation in its form. The adj. has always the same form, no matter whether the noun it qualifies is masculine, feminine or neuter; whether it is used in ^{the} singular or in plural. There is also no longer made a distinction between weak and strong adj., the former being used in O.E. after the definite article and other defining words.

Note: A few quantitative adj. use different forms for the singular and the plural. But this has nothing to do with inflections. The plural forms are words from roots totally different to the singular forms;

sg. little(not much)	pl. few
much	many

a few moments Wld. I37. it is not much good
L. IO. many evil things are done Wld. 43.

"Many" is used in the sg. in the combination
"many a" :

many a man has made good G.I99.

The only inflections retained are the endings which are added to an adj. in forming the degrees of comparison. Adj. incur a change of form according to the degree of intensity in which they are used. These degrees of intensity are called the D e g r e e s o f C o m p a r i s o n.^{x)} There are two degrees of Comparison: the C o m p a r a t i v e, which denotes a higher degree of a quality and the S u p e r l a t i v e, which denotes the highest quality possessed by a person or thing in comparison with all other persons or things. The Comparative is used when two things^{or persons} are compared. The P o s i t i v e denotes the simple quality and can therefore not be called a degree of Comparison.

In English there are two methods of Comparison. One of them forms the Comparative by adding the ending -er and the Superlative by adding the ending -est to the adj.. These suffixes go back to the O.E. suffixes -ra, -ost and -est, which have developed from the Gothic suffixes -iza, -ôza, -ists and -ôsts. These suffixes are common to all Germanic languages and therefore the first method of Comparison is called the Germanic one. The second method which appears already in early Middle English, does not add any inflections to the adj.. It uses the adverbs m o r e and m o s t to denote the two degrees of Com-

parison. In this method French influence is evident (plus, le plus)-----it is called the French method. Formerly both methods were used indiscriminately but gradually there^{have} developed more or less strict rules for their use.

The German method is the method used for all monosyllables and for certain ^{dis} bisyllables. The majority of bisyllables and all adjectives of more than two syllables admit of French Comparison.

To the monosyllables which are always compared by means of -er, -est, belong not only those adj. which are monosyllabic in spelling, but also those which are pronounced monosyllabically:

e.g.	wild	wilder	wildest
	shy	shyer	shyest
	white ('wait)	whiter	whitest
	vague (veig)	vaguer	vaguest etc.

madder music and stronger wine A.95. the dullest and blankest Roman H.35. It would be nicer M.216. the merest stray tourist W.I.252. on whitest marble A. 245.

With regard to bisyllables I have noticed that all adj. of two syllables ending in -y, -er, -ar, and -ow as a rule admit of ^{1/4} German Comparison,

e.g.	hearty	heartier	heartiest
	sober	soberer	soberest

vulgar vulgarer vulgarest
shallow shallower shallowest

etc.

healthier ideas D.M.I6.5. getting tipsier H.246. Mr. Hoover's bitterest enemy D.M.I2.I. cleverer than she L.II4. the vulgarest possessors H.II7. they were narrower and shallower W.I.290.

From bisyllables with the accent on the second syllable very often the Comparative in -er and the Superlative in -est are formed. But ^{the} periphrastic comparison is in those cases also quite common,

e.g. acute (ə'kju:t) acuter acutest
immense (i'mens) immenser immensest
absurd (əb'sə:d) absurder absurdest

etc.

but also:

more acute most acute
more immense most immense
more absurd most absurd

etc.

the severest critic's D.M.I0.6. the alertest interest W.II.232. from profoundest meditation H.234. the remotest isle M.I99. The most immense of personal favours H.254. the most correct H.I06. the most grotesque monster Wld.97. the acutest of them M.93. the most acute of female problems M.93.

The two last examples taken from the same author show us clearly that it is possible to use both methods indiscriminately. But the tendency exists to use these adj. which end in heavy consonant-groups in the French method.

Note: Adj. beginning with "a" (mostly used only predicatively) though being accented on the last syllable, are always compared by means of more and most: afraid (ə'freid) more afraid most afraid

etc.

All bisyllables left, as a general rule admit of French Comparison:

e.g. active more active most active
 terrible more terrible most terrible
 grateful more grateful most grateful
 famous more famous most famous
 selfish more selfish most selfish
 hopeless more hopeless most hopeless
 etc.

the most painful recitals H.52. more curious than this M.227. the most perfect human being W.I.187. far more splendid Wld.89. most unfair Sh.Pl.322. a more serious conversation H.I75. the most dreadful names Sh.P.362.

Note: ^{of} From the adjectives handsome, common and pleasant the degrees of comparison are mostly formed by means of -er and -est.
 e.g. the handsomest young man A.264. the commoner sort W.II.192. the commonest tweed-clad stranger W.II.252. a pleasanter person Sh.P.77. the pleasantest sense W.I.178.

Further also bisyllables ending in -id use the inflected Comparative and Superlative forms as well as the periphrastic ones.

e.g. the vivider utilisation W.II.54. the vivider memory W.II.189. the most vivid purple Sh.P.254. stupider even than H.206. far more splendid Wld.89.

The French method of Comparison is always used for Adjectives of more than two syllables,

e.g. beautiful more beautiful most beautiful
 extravagant more extravagant most extravagant
 aristocratic more aristocratic most aristocratic
 extraordinary more extraordinary most extraordinary
 etc.

the most feminine and fantastic thing H.97. the most beautiful species D.M.16.4. most reprehensible H.II5.

Note: From u n h a p p y it is possible to form the the Comparative u n h a p p i e r and the Superlative u n h a p p i e s t . This may be explained by analogy to h a p p y ;
Grace was U n h a p p i e r than she had ever been H. I46.

Further the French method is the only method used for p a r t i c i p l e s :

the most glaring lights H.95. and were much ~~no~~ more pleased Wld. 67.

Note: In colloquial speech participles for the sake of greater emphasis may be used with German comparison:

he broke out, "..... is the utterly d a m n e d e s t". II W. 21.

A very interesting example of a Superlative in -est I have found in Shaw's "Plays for Puritans";
here you have the man at his B u r g o y n e s t Sh.P. I41.

In this sentence the proper name B u r g o y n e is used in a way analogous to the use of the Superlative b e s t in the expression t o b e a t o n e ' s b e s t.

In p o e t r y m o n o s y l l a b l e s for the sake of r y t h m and r h y m e are often compared by means of m o r e and m o s t ,

The air is clear, m o r e c l e a r than sparkling wine. A.84. And all the throbbing world/
Of dew and sun and a i r /By this small parcel of life/Is made m o r e f a i r.A.84. Over the sea hung birds m o r e w h i t e than the skin/Of the last few swimmers ...A.100.

But not only in poetry, also in prose French Comparison may be used instead of the Germanic method and vice versa:

it is a graver thing and a painfuller thing and a spower thing altogether W.II II.

This is one of the rare examples, where an adj. which as a rule uses the periphrastic forms of Comparison, for the sake of uniformity admits of German Comparison.

IN most cases it is the other way round:

the most gross and fantastic things H. 228. that most clumsy and unlovely of fashions M. 100. more subtle and intricate W.II 12.

cannot be ad
But it is ~~not~~ said that all adj. in a sentence must be compared either in one or the other way. Very often both methods occur side by side. In such a case the German Comparatives and Superlatives come first.

the quickest, tiniest, most beautiful little movements L.275. a vaguer, more multitudinous perception W.II 254. to be a little brighter and more fantastic H.78.

From all these cases mentioned the conclusion can be drawn, that all adj. to which generally German Comparison is applied, for the sake of uniformity, rhythm or rhyme can be compared by means of more and most.

The use of the German method instead of the French one, is much more limited. It can be used only in those cases, in which the adding of inflection^us produces forms which are pleasing to the ear and easy to pronounce. On that account adj. of more than two syllables and bisyllables ending in -sh, -ous and -less never admit of ~~French~~ ^{Germ.} Comparison.

Certain adj. have ^{an} irregular^{or} defective comparison.

To these belong 1) adj. which form their degrees of Comparison from a root different to the Positive and 2) adj. which have two Comparative and Superlative forms, which differ from each other in meaning.

To group 1) belong the adj.:

good	}	better	best
well(orig. an adv.)			

"better" and "best" are derived from the root O.E. bat.

bad	}	worse	worst
evil			
ill			

"worse" and "worst" are from the O.E. adj. "wyrsa".

little (not much) less , least
O.E. læssa

Note: Denoting size, little has regular comparison;
littler, littlest. Mostly the Comp. and the
Sup. of s m a l l are used instead of them.

much } more most
many }

The corresponding form to m o r e is the O.E.
m a r a . M o s t is from O.E. m æ s t .

To group 2) belong the adj.:

old < oldest oldest
 elder eldest

The forms e l d e r and e l d e s t are the old^w
ones. The changed vowel is the result of i-Mutation.
O l d e r and o l d e s t are more recent formations
from the Positive o l d .

E l d e r and e l d e s t are now used only attri-
butively and always referring to persons. These forms
have the meaning: s e n i o r of r e l a t i o n s
or of t w o i n d i c a t e d p e r s o n s . But
e f t e they are used also in a more a b s t r a c t
sense: m o r e a d v a n c e d i n l i f e , m o r e
e x p e r i e n c e d .

O l d e r and o l d e s t occur predicatively
as well as attributively. They always emphasize the
idea of "o l d a g e ". Older and oldest are also
used in reference to animals and things.

your e l d e s t son Sh.P.53. our e l d e r
brother L. 197. the elder woman L. 101'

she was o l d e r than I was L'237. she looked
o l d e r L.215. to the y o u n g people....whilst
to o l d e r playgoers. ...Sh.P.39. a y o u n g man
walking with an o l d e r man M.133.

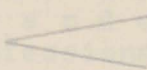
Note: When substantivized, e l d e r and e l d e s t
may be used as p r e d i c a t i v e s :
he i s the eldest of them.

Near nearer  nearest
next

"next" is the old Suprlative form from ne a h - (né a h - s t). The Comp. n e a r e e and the Sup. n e a r e s t are new formations from the old-Comp. n e a r, which is the old Comp. néah-ra.

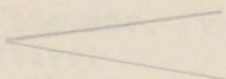
N e a r e s t means very close to in space, whereas n e x t in most cases means coming n e a r e s t in o r d e r.

the n e a r e s t landscape W.I 158. the n e a r e r lamps W.I 300. my next visit W.I 192. the n e x t few weeks W.I 296.

Late  later latest
latter

The new forms l a t e r and l a t e s t are used in reference to t i m e; the older ones, l a t t e r and l a s t (orig. formed from the adv. O.E. laet) are used to express o r d e r.

the l a t e s t news D.M.II.6. her l a s t child H.58. the l a t t e r instrument D.M. 9.2.

Far  farther farthest
further furthest

In O.E. the adj. was f e o r r with the Comp. f i e r r a and the Sup. f i e r r e s t. But as the original Comp. soon was confused with the Positiv, the Comp. of the adv. f o r e, "furpra" took its place, and a new Sup. f u r p e s t was formed. Later on there developed the forms f a r t h e r and f a r t h e s t, with extension of the Positive vowel.

These new forms are used to denote distance; f u r t h e r and f u r t h e s t are mostly used in a more figurative sense - "additional".

full, further sympathy L. 235. but also denoting distance:

the f u r t h e r East H. 102.

The second member of Comparison is always connected to the first by means of the conj. *than*:

she was older *than* I was L.231. Whiter
than fine pearls Wld.46.

Note: Adj. ending in *-ior* are old Latin Comp. They are connected with the word they are compared to by "to":

to be physically superior to
his lady friend M.256. a man some years senior to myself W.I 144.

A stronger form of the Comparative is achieved by using the adv. *far* and *much*:

a far broader dialogue D.M. 4.3. it is
much grander Sh.P.76. much nicer
than most professional people Sh.P.331

A Superlative is much more emphatic when it is used together with the Partitive Genitive:

the most terrible of terrible
infants H.31 the bluest of seas L.28
the queerest of assemblages L.248.

Further the adv. *very* may be added to the Superlative:

the very best thing G.194. the
very highest educational opportunity
W.II 66.

Naturally *very* cannot be added when the periphrastic form of the Sup. is used.

*) A very high degree without comparison may be expressed by *most*; the word in this case must be preceded by the indefinite article.

a most cruel dilemma Sh. P.362.

The next problem I am going to deal with is the problem of SUBSTANTIVIZED ADJECTIVES.^{x)}

In former periods of the English language adj. could be freely used without a following substantives. In modern English this is still possible but the freedom of using adj. in that way has been considerably limited. If the subst. which is qualified by an adj. is not repeated, it has to be replaced by "one". The restrictions in the use of the free adj. can be explained by the want of inflections. An uninflected adj. standing alone by itself is not able to express clearly the number, gender or case of the subst. for which it is used. To avoid such like difficulties it is of great importance to know all the cases in which an adj. can be still used without a following noun.

When we have an adjective standing alone by itself the question arises whether it has retained its adjectival character or whether it has become a substantive. This problem can be easily resolved. Complete conversion into substantives

has taken place in cases where the plural ending -s is used and where it is possible to form the 's-Genitive. As a criterion in the singular the i n d e f i n i t e a r t i c l e too may serve. When it is used the change from adj. into subst. has taken place.

When the unchanged plural is used and when it is impossible to use the indefinite article, the conversion has to be considered to be only a partial one. There are a great number of adj. which used as subst. have acquired all the rights of substantives proper. These substantivized adj. are often qualified by adj..

I) Adj. ending in --an and -on which are derived from proper names are used as nouns denoting I n d i v i d u a l s o f a n a t i o n:

the wild Indians L.61. a native Servian Sh. Pl. 36. wrought by a Grecian Wld. I39. Britons, Romans, Saxons, Normans, Germans, Egyptians, Russians M. I4.

Note: Here belong also the adj. G r e e k and adj. ending in -ic:

when Greek meets Greek H. I76. to the early Greeks M.242. Asiatics M. I4.

The adj. Swiss, Portugese, Japanese and very rarely also Chinese may be used in a similar way as

7

nouns. In plural they are unchanged:

I am a Swiss Sh.Pl.36. Swiss and Germans W.I 147.
the Swiss will kill you Sh.Pl.92. Yes, a Portugese
Sh. Pl.277.

"A Chinese " is said to occur very seldom. Mostly
the form "Chinaman" is used:

and Chinamen condemn another M. 226.

But not only adj. referring to nations are used in
this way. Also adj. which are derived from names of
towns, isles, ^{persons} etc. belong to this group:

turned into a very Parisian H.57. she liked them,
thes Parisians L.107. a true Corsican Sh.Pl. 222.
I am Appollodorus the Sicilian Sh.P. 201. *do good a*
Shakespearean Sh.P. 34. *head and gown* Elizabethans W.I 88.

2) Adj. refering to c r e e d, to r e l i g i o u s

and p o l i t i c a l p a r t i e s:

if you were a Mohammedan G.40. Dick was a Puritan Sh.
P.28. practised by Anglicans M.22. to be a Presbyte-
rian M.2. Swedenborgians M24. to turn a Quaker into
a Catholic M 139.

the Liberals.....in the house of Commons D.M.12.5.
an old blue W.I 270. a Philosophic Radical Sh. Pl.
290.the progressive Republicans D.M.17.2. with the
revolutionaries W.II 16. Liberals' Resignation Treat
D.M.II.as the Fabians expound it W.I 42.

Note: "Commons" is used only in the plural.

3) Adj. denoting h u m a n b e i n g s in
g e n e r a l:

one's fellow humans H. 237. simple mortals H.59.
through individuals L.267.

4) Adj. denoting r a c e s:

less insistent whites W.
II 29. she saw natives L.58. we still remain savages
with the savage's laws and taboos M. 248. a poor

drunken colonial H. 227. no passport carries
aliens M.260. you are a barbarian Sh. Pl. 53.

5) Adj. referring to social position:

an old Castilian noble Sh. Pl. 44. we nobles Sh. Pl. 48.
her inferiors Wld. 72. treating him as an equal H. 216.
with his subordinate Sh. P. 375. to civilians D. M. 10. 6.
like a civilian Sh. P. 115. troops and officials W. II 26.
the principals and their friends M. 165. Premier's
answer D. M. 6.

6) Adj. denoting gender:

a young male G. 257.
young females M. 30. the woman, the mother the female
L. 113.

7)

Adj. denoting age:

most of our moderns H. 246.
contemporaries D. M. 9. 5. to the ancients W. I 124. three
adults D. M. 12. 5. the three-year-olds D. M. 14. 2. not
living centenarian D. M. 11. 2.

8) Adj. referring to the physical or
psychical character of a
person:

criminal lunatics M. 166. detectives and
criminals M. 263. a fapatic M. 260. an innocent H. 19.
& mental defectives D. M. 9. 4. an eccentric M. 258.
village imbeciles M. 232. *he is a little silly* Sh. P. 233.

9) Further adj. which cannot be well classified:

saint: my lady and my saint Sh. Pl. 61. of these
are her saints M. 260.

dear and its Superlative dearest very often
occur as substantives in the Vocative:

gently, dearest! Sh. P. 95. the poor dear!

Sh. Pl. 36. my dears, I did not Sh. Pl. 274.

But not only in the Voc.: she is a dear W. II 18.

In familiar speech "dear" is also used as a noun with
the diminutive suffix -ie:

Cheer up, dearie! H. 218.

Also s w e e t is used as a subst. in reference to a persons. Like "dear" it is very often used in the Voc. with the signification "darling".

Ah sweet, a little one! A.37.

S w e e t may here be used only in singular, when the plural in -s is used it is neuter and totally different in meaning.

As to Comparatives and Superlatives there are only few which have become substantives proper:

Elder is freely used as a substantive. It mostly occurs in the Plural, meaning "parents" or persons advanced in age";

like e l d e r s watching a child
A.100. they were elders too L.69.

The singular form is very rare. The only example I have found is the following:

The Cadi a vigorous, fat featured choleric white-haired e l d e r. Sh.P.342.

Latter when used as a substantive often admits of the Genitive ending 's. In plural it is unchanged:

An acquaintance of the l a t t e r 's M. 133. the latter are infinitely more attractive D.M.12.6. for these l a t t e r M.254.

From Superlatives ~~Never~~ the plural in -s is formed when they are used to denote living beings. Therefore they cannot be recognized as thorough substantives:

her e l d e s t the boy L.52.

A great number of n e u t e r adj. may also be looked upon as real subst. The -'s -Genitive does not occur in those cases, it as a rule is used ~~mostly~~ from living beings, but the s-plural is very frequent.

S w e e t and its plural s w e e t s are used with the signification "sweet dishes", "bonbons".

The plural form is the more frequent one:

I don't care for s w e e t s. L.I2. Would you like a cold s w e e t. Sh.Pl. 310.

N e w s from the adj. n e w is used as a singular as well as a plural;

this news Sh.P.348.

some news gG. 62.

The right form is the sg. form. The -s is supposed to be the Genitive ending, for the word dates from so early a time that adj. did not take the -s in plural. } ?
= Kal. nova

G o o d s is now felt to be a plural. It has the meaning m e r c h a n d i z e : there are many better such goods on the market M.215.

N u d e , n u d e s are used for undraped figures in painting and sculpture:

Rodney's n u d e s H.65.

Deep and its plural d e e p s are used in poetical language for the s e a :

he rose out of the deeps Wld.I58.

Also used in a figurative sense:

....the luminous d e e p s / Of starless London night. A102. it is a power in the d e e p s. W.II 42.

Further d e e p is used meaning "mysterious region of thought":

In the d e e p of sleep a call was called from the d e e p s of me, and answered in the d e e p s by a woman...L.257.

D a r k is used with the signification a b s e n c e of l i g h t, also used figuratively:

in the dark at one end was a couch, L.73.

before the dark is in your face A.II4.

Public Kept in the Dark. D.M.I4.I.

The plural d a r k s means d a r k | c o - l o u r s, esp. in art: lights and d a r k | s of a picture. (Oxf, Dict.)

Colour - names used in the Singular denote the colour and also clothes of that colour:

The servants, loving his r e d and g o l d and b l u e L.35. clad in spotless White Sh.P.339. in pale b l u e W.I 216.

To denote certain shades of colours also the plural form may be used ;

the deep rich browns and warm greys W.II 254. the deep blues of my window W.II 190.

But they often are applied to more concrete things of a certain colour:

his eyes rolled up showing only the w h i t e s. L.I30. the g r e y s (grey horses) D.M.I4.4. the Persian B l u e s (blue cats) D.W.9.2. the dust and b l a c k s (particles of soot) W.I 287.

G r e e n in ²se the plural has the meaning - v e g e t a b l e s.

H o l y is used as a substantive in the expression - h-o-l--the holy of holies = innermost sanctuary of Jewish temple).

Often used figuratively for innermost shrine:

within the h o l y of h o l i e s H. 57. Sh.P.21.

Further neuter adj. which have been converted wholly into subst. are:

the well- got- up, glossy m o n t h l i e s M.44. less ambitious are the d a i l i e s M.44. a young- ladyish p e r i o d i c a l M.244. to-night's f i n a l s D.M.I4.5. the production of Scottish w o o l l e n s D.M.8.2. He was an illuminating e x t r e m e W.I 187. the e x t e m e s of economic distress, D-M. 12.2.

Adj. ending in -able are used as subst. only in the plural:

eatables, valuables etc.

he helped himself to the vegetables H.46.

Athletic also is used only in the plural ath-
letics = practise of physical exercise:

Winter athletics have grown popular. D.M.
15.7.

The following examples show us some Superlatives which have stripped off their adjectival character and have become real subst.:

a poor unsatisfactory best it is M.42. he did his horrible little best A.35. the gentleman's latest is Sh.Pl.285. even at my coarsest W.I 242.

IN all these cases mentioned above we have seen adj. which have become real substantives. Now I am going to deal with those incidents ^{cases} where an adj. appears without a following noun but is still felt to be of more adjectival character. In those cases the adj. is chiefly used with the definite article, either in the plural to denote a whole class of living beings or in the singular, in which case it is an abstract noun. The plural in those cases is always unchanged.

Adj. which have not been converted wholly into subst. are very seldom used in the sing. when referring to living beings. The only adj. which may be used in that way is the adj dead:

to be the living dead, that's awful L. 215. I-am the transition from the dead I am to the dead I shall be very soon, L.95.

Note: Synonyms of dead, and some other parti-

ciples sometimes are used in a similar way:

the brother of the deceased D.M.I8.5.
the duty of the employed to the employer D.M.I8.

In former periods of the English language there existed much greater freedom in this respect. The adj. being inflected, could be freely used in the sing. for a person.

Authors when affecting archaic speech use such forms:

thou venerable grotesque Sh.P.2II. O Beloved of victory! Sh.P. 235. Speak, o subtle beyond thy years! Sh.P.I52. Hear the serpent begotten! Sh.P.I52. Allah, the Glorious, the Great.' Sh.P.339.

Also colloquially there is more freedom in using singular adj. as nouns denoting persons:

I'd 'ave been a deaf and dummy. G.267.
Although "deaf" is used here with the article "a" it must be regarded as an adj. for it is impossible to use in this case the -s-plural.

As I have already pointed out adj. are very frequently used in the plural and with the definite article to denote a whole class of living beings:

the proper people to help the old are the young G.287. the novels written by the rich about the poor, by the literate about the illiterate M.263. For the good are always the merry/Save by an evil chance/And the merry love to fiddle/ And the merry love the dance. A262. the vanquished Sh.Pl.23I.

IN the same way are used the names of nations ending in -sh and -ch. They are used only to denote a nation as a whole. When used to denote an individual or individuals, words like man, woman or person have to be added:

I forget the French Sh.Pl.
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sing.:
a fog of Latin and Greek W.I 181.
in French or in American L. 268.

if the Irish said that Sh.P.245. an American addressing an English person Sh.P.353. the dry, hard-seeming, competent English woman or American W. 108.

The adjectival character in all those cases is proved by the impossibility to add the plural ending -s. Further ^{further} They are often qualified by adv.,

the congenitally deaf are not the best judges H.56. the presence of the sick, the miserably and hopelessly poor-M.250-H.193. the truly respectable H.145.

But there are also cases where they are preceded by attributive adjectives:

~~the congenitally deaf~~ the wretched rich, the wretched poor W.I 158.

Here the adj. rich and poor in spite of their unchanged plural forms must be considered to be more of nominal than of adjectival character, for attribute adj. can be used only with nouns or their equivalents.

* Adj. used as neuter subst.(abstracts) occur very frequently too. Here we have in most cases the definite article:

its passion for the horrible Wld.73. the good in me W.II 229. the eternal feminine H. 72. the great unknown Sh.P. 245. the uninspected always happens H. 72. the edge of the beyond L.193. in the open G.84.

When used together in pairs the article may be dropped:

the strife of Good and Evil Sh.P.251. treating bad as good and good as bad, important as trivial and trivial as important, serious as laughable...Sh.Pl.17.

The same rule is applied also to adj. which are used as substantives in reference to persons:

An invitation/To greet and small A.I43.
between rich and poor W.I I77.

Except ~~for~~ its moral sense good is also used with the meaning use:

What is the good of doing that .G. 760
When it is preceded by for, it means finally:
to go for good G. 287.

Neuter Comparatives and Superlatives occur as free adj. in certain fixed expressions:

to get the better of ones neighbours G.I55.
to hope for the best G.243. at the worst M.
49. to prepare for the worst Sh.Pl.285. that's
the simplest L. I45. etc.

Superlatives without a following "one" are frequent when the partitive Genitive is used:

the best of my motives G.I68. the worst of it is G.77.

As we see it is not always easy to decide whether to call a word a subst. or an adj. In cases where we have no distinct criterion it is often impossible to come to a result and we have thus to accept that the word in question is neither an adj. nor a subst. but something intermediate.

The lack of a clear distinction between adj. and subst. further exists in cases where an uninflected subst. precedes a substantive without forming with the latter a noun - compound.

7 The tendency to use s u b s t a n t i v e s as a d j e c t i v e s was already strong in the Elizabethan period. In modern English, however, the freedom of adjectivizing substantives is much greater, especially proper names and material nouns can be freely used as attributive adjectives.

1) Proper names used in adjectival function:

L o n d o n life, M.39.
his S t a f f o r d s h i r e neighbours,
W.I 15.
a F o r d car, L.52.
the B e r l i n system, M.39.
the D i c k e n s dialect, Sh.P.383.
etc.

Note: Proper names to which there exist corresponding adj. as a general rule do not assume the functions of adj.:

American life M.40.
~~Middle~~ Western life, M.41. etc.

2) Material nouns:

a s t r a w hat, L.61
the m a r b l e table, H. 12.
i r o n laths, Sh.P.48.
a b r o n z e horse, Wld. 159.
a s i l v e r crown, A.205.
etc.

3) Nouns used in a figurative sense to express
r e s e m b l a n c e :

his m u t t o n - c h o p whiskers, G.I80.
l e g - o f - m u t t o n sleeves, H.47.
their m a r b l e s n o w s, A.243.
etc.

4) Nouns used as adj. to express s e x or
a g e :

a w o m a n witness, D.M. 6.3.
a l a d y friend, Sh.Pl. 256.
g i r l playmates, W. I23.II.
the b o y clerks, W.I 74.

5) Various o t h e r n o u n s which cannot
be well classified:

w e e k - e n d visits W.II I2I.
a u t u m n leaves Wld. I26.
his g r e y c i t y face L. 46.
the breakfast system WII I5.
her g y p s y splendour W.I 222.
a f a i r y prince L.II. ~~etc.~~
News Editors M.38.
g r a n d f a t h e r spectacles G.78.

6) Further also c o m p o u n d s consisting
of two nouns, adj. + noun, verb + noun, adv. + noun
and preposition + noun, are often used as attributive
adj.:

her q u e e n - b e e love and q u e e n -
b e e will L.II2.
all you m a t t e r - o f - f a c t people
G.24.
to the c o m m o n p l a c e mind D.M. I5.
a t e r r i b l e h a n g - d o g look
L.238.
an o u t - o f - w o r k carpenter WI20.
this in-love business L.195.

Note: Modern authors often use whole phrases as modifiers to nouns:

He is in the "lose the world to save your soul" mood. G.250. in a "heave - half a - brick-at - him" fashion. L.139. with a "Who- are - you?" look, L.139. a blind kill me - quick sort of state, L.282. his eyes had a "devil - may - care" light in them, L.238. You're still at the Life - is - real - life - is - earnest, Low - living and - high - thinking stage. H.79.

In all the examples given above the substantives are used to qualify the noun they precede. They are doing the work of adjectives. If we read the examples once more over, this time in a loud voice, we notice that both elements - the attribute as well as the following substantive - have even stress:

London life, marble snow etc.

Even stress is found always in word - groups consisting of an attributive adj. and a substantive:

a wealthy person, old houses etc.,

whereas a group of two substantives has one strong unifying stress which shows that the two elements belong together and form a compound:

the dining - room, a steam - engine etc.

From this point of view nothing can hinder us to regard the afore-mentioned word - groups with even

stress as analogous to groups consisting of an attributive adj + a noun.

On the other ^{hand} ~~side~~ these word - groups have something of the fixity of compounds, as is seen from the impossibility to use these adjectivised subst. also predicatively. They ^{neither} ~~also~~ do not admit of Comparison. But these tests cannot be considered as absolutely infallible. There are also real adj. which are used only attributively, and which from the nature of their meaning cannot have degrees of Comparison (e.g. adj. denoting shape, place or time: octagonal, Irish, daily etc.)

From a few subst. used ad adj. it is possible to form the degrees of Comparison. They also may be used as predicatives :

She is personable, forty - eight, trim, well - dressed and more matter - of - fact than seems plausible. G.218. the most matter - of - fact order Sh.246.

Here we have comparison and also predicative use of the compound subst. matter - of - fact., which thus has to be regarded as an adj proper.

Further examples of subst. used as predicative adj':

a story.....which is more often commonplace, crude and flat M.165. I am for a season High - Church, even Anglo - Catholic M.124. that was first - rate D.M.16.3. it was country - side W.I 176. it was to be more open and above - board. G.286.

In these cases the substantives have been wholly converted into ~~subst~~ adjectives. But these cases are only occasional ones. The majority of adjectivized subst. from the nature of their meaning cannot admit of Comparison; also ^{neither} do they not ~~admit~~ occur as predicative adjectives. Therefore we have to seek for other tests which would prove the adjectival character of these subst.

1) A very important criterion is the fact that they are used together with other adjectives:

his grey city face L.46. large leather chairs G.16.

When the adjectivized subst. is separated from the preceding adj. by a comma or by and, its independence is the more evident:

that slow, animal cry L.94. a certain intimate, heart-to-heart quality H.254. the ~~gay~~ gay, terrible, beyond-good-and-evil variety H.84. crude and second-hand impressions, W.124.1.

2) They are often qualified by adverbs:

a ghastly tame-cat sort of life G.170. a most dare-devil thing G.169. others are Danube Blues, and a few nearly Cambridge.

3) They are used with a following o n e which is used instead of the subst.:

the p e n n y papers are more within your scope, and particularly the e v e n i n g o n e s, M.75. if I had not discovered it surviving in a M i d d e l s e x village, and heard ~~from~~ ^{of} it from an e E s s e x o n e. Sh.P. 383.

All these tests show us clearly that ~~the~~ subst. used parallel with adj proper, qualified by means of adverbs and followed by "o n e", have approximated to the adjectival status, whereas subst. which admit also of Comparison and which are used predicatively have attained it fully.

To some m a t e r i a l n o u n s there exist corresponding adj. ending in - e n.

There are cases where both forms --- the noun and the adj. in -e n , are used indiscriminately without the slightest shade of meaning:

l e a t h e r and l e a t h e r n are both used to denote m a t e r i a l : a l e a t h e r n button G.45. a ~~is~~ l e a t h e r n cushion Sh.P.243. leather chairs G.16.

s i l k and s i l k e n are used in the same way:

a s i l k handkerchief Sh.Pl.I31. s i l k hats W.I 292. s i l k e n carpets Wld. 160.

o a k and o a k e n : the big o a k press Sh.P.77. ^{an} o a k e n chest A. 241.

As I have already pointed out , one of the most characteristic features of the English of to-day is to use subst. without any derivative endings as adj.. The tendency to drop the -en forms of material nouns and to use instead of them the corresponding nouns is very strong. The adj. in -en are felt to be more archaic and therefore they often occur in poetry and in elevated style :

O thou o a k e n chest ! A. 241. ^{in all their} ~~o a k e n chest~~
s i l k e n best A. 100.97.

Further the -en - forms are often used in a more f i g u r a t i v e sense , whereas the noun when used as an adj. always refers to the material of a thing :

b r a s s peacocks Wld.163. her b r a z e n
"modern" manners H.113.the l e a d e n East A.94.
as on a g o l d e n age H.47. a close cropped
g o l d e n head H.245. g o l d e n promises M.159.
that g o l d e n fluid H.232. when peaks grow
g o l d e n A.243. a ~~l i t t l e~~ little g o l d pencil
G. 218.

Note: In poetry sometimes g o l d e n occurs in reference to the material of a thing :

a great g o l d e n ring A. 132. silver
trumps and g o l d e n drums A.74.

G o l d may be used also figuratively:
the wet g o l d shore A.97.

~~From~~ The adj. w o o d e n and w o o l l e n
cannot be replaced by the subst. w o o d and
w o o l . Only in compounds we have w o o d :

the great p i n e w o o d log Wld.I7.
two b e n t w o o d chairs Sh.Pl. 48.
but always: a w o o d e n ledge D.M.I8'2. w o o -
d e n doors G. 75. a w o o l l e n gown A.I37.
w o o l l e n stuff G.75.

To o l d there exists also a cooresponding
form o l d e n. O l d e n has become totally obsolete
in spoken English. In literary English, especially in
poetry, it occurs in the expression i n o l d e n
t i m e . A.I7I.

Adj. which precede nouns qualifying them directly are said to be used a t t r i b u t i v e l y. When an adj. is part of the predicate it is called a p r e d i c a t i v e = a d j e c t i v e. Predicative adj. are linked to the noun they qualify by means of verbs.

* As a rule adj. can be used attributively as well as predicatively. But there are some adj. that are hardly ever used as predicatives and some that are hardly ever used as attributive adj. There are also cases where we have to distinguish in meaning according to the attributive or predicative use of an adj.

To the adj used only attributively belong ~~some~~

~~Formal~~ Comparatives:

the elder men L.75. the latter instrument D.M.9.2. their former places Sh. P.181. a sort of upper maid L.II. the utter xxx lack G.39. the outer world L.54. the inner door Sh. Pl.232.

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Here belong further adj. which are originally adverbs;

a f a r - o f f intentness L. 74.

Note:

V e r y, though on original adjective — (French - v r a i, Latin - v e r u s) is now chiefly used as an adverb. As an adj. it is used only attributively :

the v e r y heart of the world L.256. the v e r y top G.80.

Only p r e d i c a t i v e l y are used adj. beginning with -a , which goes back to old formations of the preposition o n + n o u n s, e.g. alive = on + life etc.

the girl is a s l e e p G.49. some of them were a j a r D.M.I8.5.

Analogous to these adj. also other adj. beginning with -a , but of different origin , occur only predicatively:

you were not a bit a f r a i d (past partic. of the obsolete verb "affray") or a s h a m e d (past participle of the obsolete verb "ashame").

Some of the adj. beginning with -a have developed forms without the -a for attributive use :

The lower people are a l i k e Sh.Pl.246. }
in l i k e case M. I6I. }

his face is a l i v e G.I48.

like a l i v e bull Wld.64.

a l i v e dog is better than a dead lion G.I27.

The attributive form to a l o n e is l o n e :

they dwelt in a l o n e house A.9I.

The adj. g l a d never occurs as an attribute

in its usual meaning p l e a s e d : G l a d tidings = good tidings , the g l a d e y e G.249 = amorous or festive look (slang), your moments of g l a d g r a c e A. 269., here glad is used with the signification " ~~xxxxxx~~ bright, beautiful ". With a similar signification it must be used in " G l a d G h o s t s " L. 206. *is*

W e l l which is originally an adverb is very frequently used as an predicative adj. meaning h e a l t h y . Attributively it occurs very rarely; I have found no examples of it in that position.

xxx I l l used predicatively is the opposite of w e l l . When used attributively its meaning changes to " b a d " . I l l occurs as an attribute only in reference to things :

no i l l will Sh.Pl.I6.
some i l l chance M. I49.

As I have already pointed out word order in Modern English is much stricter than in other Germanic languages. The more inflections there are in a language the more arbitrarily words can be grouped together. The inflections show us the work each word has to do in the sentence. In Modern English a word often owes its meaning to its position in the sentence. To change the order of words would mean in most cases to change also the meaning of the sentence.

In English word order ^{generally} follows the so-called Rule of Proximity. Words, phrases and sentences that are logically associated must be grouped together as closely as possible.

The adj. attribute is always placed as close ^{ly} as ~~xxxx~~ possible to ~~xxxxxx~~ the noun it qualifies.

The normal place of the attribute is in front of the substantive:

a fine October morning in the north-east quarter of London Sh.Pl.III. A queer look of abstracted passion was on Colmenares' fat, pale, clean-shaven face L. 262. this is perfectly monstrous weather Wld.210.

*) When there are two or more adj. which modify a noun, that one which is most closely connected ^{with the noun} in meaning, is placed next to it. If they are all equal in meaning their order may vary; ~~then~~ ^{then} it is regulated by the order in which the ideas present themselves to the writer or speaker:

those ugly, interesting, human masks W.269.
long black hair Wld.70. a black marble cat Wld. 56.
handsome young fellows Sh.P.146. a little old man
 Sh.P.146. all his old passionate eagerness H.104. (in
 reference to things. adj. denoting age are not felt to
 be so closely connected with them in meaning as they
 are when used ^{reference to} with persons).

*) Deviations from the common word-order occur quite frequently: } *see above! p. 37*

1) The usual order of words is reversed when the adj. attribute is enlarged by a qualifying phrase:

no air native to me, no man kindred to me
 Sh.P.158. the moment apparent to the crowd Sh.P.
 278. a creature incapable of faith and of grati-
tude Sh.Pl.75. a Venus as lovely as herself Wld.99.
a kiss as intimate as love A.50. a man worth ten of
you Sh. Pl.91. a gluttony so disgusting as only to be
called "human". M.225.

In these cases mentioned the adj. is placed after the noun because it cannot well be separated from the enlarging words with which it is in close connexion.

The further explanation given in this case is, that the adj together with its enlargement is felt to be equal to an abbreviated relative clause, and so has to take the same place as that would have.

2) Post-position of the adj attribute is quite frequent when the adj. is used together with numerals denoting a measure:

hemlocks ten foot high A.I24.

In reference to age the adj. together with the numeral is placed very often before the noun:

a four-years-old child D.W.I2.4.

her fifteen-years-old son D.W.I2.44.

3) Participles used as attributive adj. not seldom follow the noun. This is mostly the case when the verbal character in them has to be emphasized:

Major S. retired Sh.P.Io6. truth untold A.2II. the few men living Sh.P.377. a house unkept ...
..... a life un-lived M.98.

4) Adj. ending in -able because of their verbal character are often placed after the noun:

Loss irreparable Sh.P.I94. the careers available M.3I. the noiseless smile immovable L.I03.

5) Post - position of an adj. attribute is found also after thing and things. This may be explained by the fact that these words ~~in these cases~~ are felt to be analogous to anything, something and nothing:

a thing apart W.I IO5. a thing eternal W.I IO2.
all things human A.I2I.

*Exmpl.
infl.*

6) Adj. which are ~~exclusively~~ qualified by adverbs also may follow their noun :

an attitude entirely defensive W.II.37. another problem specifically feminine M.68.

Here post - position may be explained by e m - p h a s i s. In English the weakest part of a sentence is the middle. The beginning and the end are the two emphatic parts. The end is considered to be the m o s t e m p h a t i c part. Therefore the adj. attribute is often placed at the close of a sentence.

7) Adj connected by a n d or o r for the sake of greater prominence often have post - position :

a back - ground brown and deep W.I 106. her face dark and primitive L.102. a marble high and white A. 196. with love false or true A.269.

When there are more than two adjectives modifying a noun, the more prominent of them are placed after the noun:

a long, long night, icy and eternal L.66. he had dark eyes, beautiful and very bright H.II. far - off voices thin and delicate A.348.

Note: Here the adj. which are placed after the noun may be regarded also as undeveloped relative clauses.

8) French influence is found in the following combinations : the blood royal Wld.72 the sum total W. II 79. the Lie Direct M.83. the Mother Superior L. 101. honor bright Sh.Pl.236. *etc etc.*

9) Further have Post - position : next and last when used with names of days and months :
on Sunday next, on Monday last etc.

Also opposite and similar :
one of a series similar L.IO. the table opposite G. 249.

IO) The adj. present ^eows its meaning to its position in ~~the~~^a sentence. Standing in front of a noun it has the signification : actual, modern. Standing after ~~the~~ a noun it means "being in the place in question" :

The greatest present danger D.M.3.5. one of the men present went out L. 74. Margaret absent means more to me than Margaret present W.I 251.

II) When we address a person, the adjective is often ^{an} ~~after~~³thought and therefore the noun comes first:

Mother dear, will you go out. G.36. How are you, mother dear? G.36.

Note: When the adj in such a case is separated from the noun by a comma, it can be looked upon as being substantivized :

Etatateeta, dear, Sh.P.166.

I2) In poetry attributive adj. not seldom are placed after the nouns they belong to ["]for the sake of metre, rhythm and rhyme :

a berry red, a guileless look A.236. Kindness of wooe d and wooe r/ Seems shame to their love pure. A.209. All the world and this old bull/ In the forest beautiful. A.125.

When used as a p r e d i c a t i v e , the adj. usually stands after the verb which links it to the noun :

she grew grey , Wld.I37. she was silent Wld.I37.

Here also reversion of the common word - order often takes places. The predicated not seldom is put at the beginning of a sentence, in which place it is much more emphatic than in its normal place. This change in the usual order of words very often is accompanied also by an inversion of the subject.

The common word - order of a sentence consisting ^{only} of ^{the} subject and ^a predicate which has an adj. as comple - ment is ;

subject + verb + adjective .

Putting the adj. ~~at~~ ^{obtain} at the beginning of the sentence, we receive sentences with the following order of words:

adjective + subject + verb

or

adjective + verb + subject .

Reversions of that kind are very frequent in poetical and rhetorical language .

Examples : "B l u e they are," she remarked. W.I I63. Naked were her feet Wld. I76. W h i t e r as the surf it was , Wld. I96. Terribly c6ld it certainly was Wld. 2I9. P r o u d we were, A.35. And d e a d is all the innocence, A. 59. R i g h t you are, Mr. Bly

Ephemeral, the productions of the estate may and indeed must be . M.46. More curious is the fact M. 227.

To give the adj. still more prominence it often is repeated :

Dead, dead they are A. 199.

Bitter, bitter was his joy, Wld. 187

Inversion of the predicative in exclamatory clauses :

Hm! Extraordinary girls are! G
Happy are those interludes ! M. 158.

Adj. preceded by how always stand before the verb and the subject :

How delightful it is! M. 225.
but how fickle is this academy of haste M.238. How frail the body is A.194. How conventional all you unconventional people are Sh.Pl.164.

Except for the cases mentioned also adj. when preceded by so may be placed at the beginning of a sentence :

so sweet was her voice Wld.114.

so beautiful was she Wld. 192.

Inversions often are used to avoid monotony in the rythm of sentences. Monotony would be the natural result of a sequence of sentences of the same construction.

The following examples taken from Wilde show us clearly how much of its beauty & style owes to inversions :

And the young king looked at them and they were beautiful. More beautiful were they than ought

that he had ever seen Wld.36. The dead staff blossomed
and bare lilies that were whiter than fine pearls. The
dry thorn blossomed and bare roses that were redder than
male rubies. Whiter than fine pearls were the lilies....
Redder than male rubies were the roses.....Wld.46.

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