

Adjectives: order

Order of adjectives

When more than one adjective comes before a noun, the adjectives are normally in a particular order. Adjectives which describe opinions or attitudes (e.g. *amazing*) usually come first, before more neutral, factual ones (e.g. *red*):

*She was wearing an **amazing red** coat.*

Not: ... ~~red-amazing~~ coat

If we don't want to emphasise any one of the adjectives, the most usual sequence of adjectives is:

order	relating to	examples
1	opinion	<i>unusual, lovely, beautiful</i>
2	size	<i>big, small, tall</i>
3	physical quality	<i>thin, rough, untidy</i>
4	shape	<i>round, square, rectangular</i>
5	age	<i>young, old, youthful</i>
6	colour	<i>blue, red, pink</i>
7	origin	<i>Dutch, Japanese, Turkish</i>
8	material	<i>metal, wood, plastic</i>
9	type	<i>general-purpose, four-sided, U-shaped</i>
10	purpose	<i>cleaning, hammering, cooking</i>