

## English Grammar – Adjectives and Nouns

In English, **adjectives** are usually used before nouns. For example:

- I saw a **beautiful** bird.
- He ate an **enormous** sandwich.
- Rio is a **violent** city.

However, an **adjective** can be used after the verb 'to be'. For example:

- This bird is **beautiful**.
- His sandwich was **enormous**.
- The city of Rio is **violent**.

If we know the noun from the context, we can use the substitution word "one". For example:

- There are many birds in the zoo, but this is a beautiful one. ("*one*" = "*bird*")
- He eats many sandwiches, and yesterday he ate an enormous one. ("*one*" = "*sandwich*")
- The city of Rio is a violent one. ("*one*" = "*city*")
- Brazil has many big cities, and Rio and São Paulo are violent ones. ("*ones*" = "*cities*")

There is also an important difference between English and Portuguese:

**In English, an adjective cannot be used without a noun.**

Here are some examples:

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| • O ideal é "100 pontos".               | The ideal <u>score</u> is "100 points".        |
| • O melhor passa para a próxima rodada. | The best <u>player</u> goes to the next round. |
| • O último sai do jogo.                 | The last <u>person</u> leaves the game.        |
| • Eu quero o azul.                      | I want the blue <u>one</u> .                   |
| • O correto é .....                     | The correct thing to do is .....               |
| • A importante é .....                  | The important thing is .....                   |

A direct translation of the Portuguese phrases would result in incomplete English phrases!

**Exercise.** Translate the following Portuguese phrases by introducing an appropriate noun or substitution word.

1. Tenho dois carros, mas eu prefiro o preto.

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2. Preciso falar com o sábio.

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3. Vamos pedir o vinho da casa. Que tal o tinto?

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4. Eu amo hotéis - vamos ficar em um luxuoso!

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5. Eu tenho 3 irmãs, por que você não namora a magrinha?

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6. O importante é não cair.

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