

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. This means that they describe, limit, or in some way give a more definite meaning to a noun or pronoun.

Here are some notes about adjectives:

1. When the predicate describes the subject, the verb is one of the five senses, or is a linking verb (*to be, seem, become, appear*) use an adjective:
The weather turned nasty.
I feel sad.
He became furious.
2. A descriptive adjective tells us the quality or the condition of the noun or pronoun:
A short man
The excited dog
A hot meal
3. A limiting adjective points to the exact noun or pronoun and shows quantity:
That book
Twenty dollars
The ticket

You can see that the articles *a, and, the*, and demonstrative pronouns *this, that, these, those* can be an adjective!
4. An entire phrase can be an adjective:
The mug *with the rainbow painted on it* broke.
The invitation *that was addressed to John* got lost.
5. An adjective can modify a noun phrase:
Driving to work can be *hazardous*. Here, *driving to work* is the noun phrase, and *hazardous* is the adjective.
6. Adjectives come in degrees: positive, comparative, and superlative.
The positive degree is the adjective in its simplest form: *fast*
The comparative form adds “er”: *faster*
The superlative form adds “est”: *fastest*
7. Sometimes adjectives are easy to identify because of their suffix:
-able: forgettable
-al: musical
-ary: stationary
-en: harden
-ful: plentiful
-ible: incorrigible
-ic: cosmic

-ish: devilish
-ive: furtive
-less: hopeless
-like: ladylike
-ous: hazardous
-some: handsome
-y: merry

Adjectives are great for description, but they shouldn't be overused. If you have too many in one sentence, try to think of other ways to get your point across.

For example, if your sentence is, "*Hannah watched the fat, old, lazy, brown and black dog run across the busy, children-filled park as fast as his short, round body would go*", there are too many adjectives. Figure out what components are the most important to the sentence and leave out the rest or put them into other descriptive sentences. Here is one possible modification:

Hannah couldn't help but laugh at the chubby dog maneuvering its way through the crowded park as fast as he could.

Reworking sentences to cut adjective flab will make your writing more focused and easier to read!