

## ADJECTIVES

### Exercise 1.

- I. Consider the series of adjectives and the nouns they qualify. In the blanks below each line, re-write the adjectives while arranging them in your natural order.

A. Red..... Brick..... Beautiful ..... Old ..... → **House**

\_\_\_\_\_ **House**

B. Italian ..... Leather ..... Small ..... Black..... → **Book**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Book**

C. White..... Grammar ..... Old..... Expensive... **Book**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Book**

D. Cheap ..... Bright..... Walmart ..... Solar..... **Lamp**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lamp**

- II. What generalization can you draw from the way you ordered the adjectives?

- III. Is your generalization fixed or is it context-dependent? Why or Why not?

**Exercise 2.** Consider the following noun phrases. Are any of these phrases incorrect or inappropriate? What differences (if any) in meaning and effect are there between them.

1. An interesting little black book
2. A little interesting black book
3. A little black interesting book
4. A black little interesting book
5. A black interesting little book

**Exercise 3.** The following sentences were extracted from First-Year Composition students' papers. Carefully examine them, identify the multiword adjective in them, and make the necessary correction.

1. These individuals organize their schedule around their day-today lives and routines.
2. This article shed light on the fact that though the Administration at our college may seem distant and all powerful, they go to work every day and manage the hectic campus and all that it entails.
3. After choosing to research the subculture of shopkeepers and workers in Magnolia Square in Magnolia, Arkansas, I wondered what the difference was between the culture of small town stores and the culture of big, nationwide chain stores.
4. We do have to keep in mind that this was written in twenty-fourteen, so the information is a little old but still within the five year time limit of current information.
5. Not only were the intelligent ladies black, but they were actually going to a great high class college.

#### **Exercise 4.**

Consider the following passage. Comparatives and Superlatives have been indicated by numbers. Study each of these and answer the questions that follow.

*Fast music makes you shop faster (1), classical music makes you buy more expensive (2) wine and country music drives you to despair, psychologists said today.*

*Certain types of music can influence the degree to which people are to persuasion. Adrian North of Leicester University told the British Association Annual Science Festival at Birmingham University today. 'Music tempo can influence the speed of customers' activity.'*

*After a study that showed that fast music led to shoppers moving around a supermarket more quickly (3) than slow music, a follow-up showed that fast music caused diners to eat more quickly (4).*

*Another study showed a similar effect with fast music in a bar – drinking was quicker (5) than it was to slow music. In a cafeteria, diners took more (6) bites per minutes than they did to slow.*

*Playing classical music and a selection from the Top 40 in a wine cellar revealed that people buy more expensive (7) bottles to classical, while sad music in a stationery shop led to a bigger (8) purchase of greetings cards.*

*Sad music also led to people buying more helpful (9) than did other types.*

- a. Is this form a comparative or a superlative?
- b. Is this form an adjective, adverb, or quantifier?
- c. Would an alternative form (e.g. bravest = most brave) be possible? Would this change the meaning in any way?

#### **Exercise 5. Learner's English.**

What would you tell the learner who made the following mistakes, so that she understood the mistake and could avoid making it again?

1. thinnest
2. more bigger
3. happier
4. more good
5. beautifullest