



## Subclasses of Adjectives

There are two subclasses of adjectives: *attributive* and *predicative*.

Attributive adjectives usually come before a noun and characterize the noun.

### *Examples of Attributive Adjectives*

The **skinny** man is running.

I drive a **red** car.

Predicative adjectives occur in the predicate of a sentence (after the subject and main verb).

### *Examples of Predicative Adjectives*

That man is **skinny**.

My car is **red**.

Adjectives are also in the predicative position when they follow the noun:

The *eating* man is very *eating*.

Since this test yields a sentence that is not grammatically correct, *eating* is not an adjective. You probably recognize it as a *participle* an -ing form of the verb *to eat*.

## Participles as Adjectives

A *participle* is not an *adjective*. But notice that *eating* can be used as an adjective, in the predicative position, in this sentence:

A man *eating* is a man contented.

Another participle *singing* can be used as an adjective as well. Notice that this one works in the attributive position:

The *singing* telegram was very entertaining.

Participles are often used as single-word modifiers of nouns, before or after the noun. When they modify a noun, these words are functioning as adjectives, that is, *adjectivally*.

## Activity 1

Directions: Underline the adjectives in the following sentences. Identify whether they are attributive (A) or predicative (P). Also identify if they are descriptive (D), or identifying (I), or quantitative (Q) adjectives.

1. The purple umbrella was resting on those boots.
2. In the summer, the weather is warm here in sunny California.
3. In the Victorian era, women wore dresses that were long.
- 4.
5. I have two Bolivian friends who are both extremely intelligent.

1. purple (A, D), those (A, I)
2. warm (P, D), sunny (A, D)

3.