

## Know Your Building Materials!

# Articles – Wimpy Adjectives

The words **the**, **an**, and **a** are adjectives called articles.

**Rule:** Use **a** before words beginning with a **consonant sound** and **an** before words beginning with a **vowel sound**: **An** apple but **a** watermelon.

Sometimes consonants sound like vowels: **An** honor, but **a** horse.

**Rule:** Don't use **a** or **an** after expressions ending with **of**.

**Wrong:** What sort of **a** candy bar is it?

**Right:** What sort of candy bar is it?

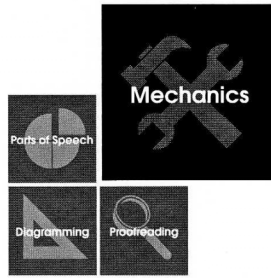
*Choose the correct expression.*

1. Find ( a, an ) old, smelly shoe.
2. That was some sort (of, of a ) large greyhound.
3. Wait for ( a, an ) hour before you go swimming.
4. ( A, an ) hard-boiled egg tastes delicious with lots of salt.

*Underline each adjective and draw an arrow to the word being described.*

**Hint:** An adjective modifies a person, place, or thing. It cannot modify another adjective.

1. A large, smelly dragon lives in the tremendously dank cave.
2. He is very kind and gentle, but he has really putrid breath.



## Good Mechanics Are Hard to Find

# Special Forms of Adjectives

Adjectives can be used to compare two or more things.

A small dog

A **smaller** dog (two dogs are compared)

The **smallest** dog (more than two dogs are compared)

A vicious dog

A **less** vicious dog (two dogs are being compared)

The **least** vicious dog (more than two dogs are compared)

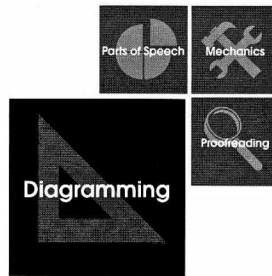
With some adjectives of two syllables and all adjectives of three or more syllables, use **more**, **most**, **less**, or **least**.

A **more** exciting movie, or a **less** exciting movie

The **most** exciting movie, or the **least** exciting movie

Write a correct form of the adjective in parentheses.

- One of the (unusual) \_\_\_\_\_ animals is the platypus.
- My (fast) \_\_\_\_\_ teammate is Jean.
- A tiger is (frightening) \_\_\_\_\_ than a house cat.
- A bush is (tall) \_\_\_\_\_ than a tree.
- Cherry pie is (delicious) \_\_\_\_\_ than eggplant.
- Reading is (fun) \_\_\_\_\_ than doing the dishes.
- Math is my (difficult) \_\_\_\_\_ subject.



## Understand the Structure

# More Diagramming Adjectives

Diagram the following sentences.

1. A red ribbon flew.
2. A purple shirt and green pants clashed.
3. A lively dolphin jumped and splashed.
4. The wily fox either ran or hid.

Fill in the blank.

An **adjective** is a word that modifies either a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_.



## Careless Mistakes Can Cause Big Problems!

# Proofreading

*Correct the mistakes in the sentences below. Each line contains one mistake.*

Humpty dumpty was awfully stupid to sit on that huge wall.

What did he expect? A egg is exceedingly fragile. Humpty's balance wasn't that great anyway. Everyone knows that eggs shells are very thin. Next time Humpty wants to act realy hot, he should jump into a frying pan