

# Adjectives and Articles

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun or pronoun. An adjective usually comes before the word it describes, but it can also follow the noun or pronoun. Many adjectives answer the question *What kind?* They describe color, shape, size, sound, taste, touch, or smell. Other adjectives answer the question *How many?* or *Which one?*

**What Kind?** The ship made a wonderful home. The ship was cozy.

**How Many?** The *John Ena* had four masts.

**Which One?** This room is where we have our lessons.

*A*, *an*, and *the* are special adjectives called **articles**. *A* and *an* are used only with singular nouns. Use *a* before words that begin with a consonant sound. Use *an* before words that begin with a vowel sound or a silent *h*. *The* is used with both singular and plural nouns.

I had an egg and a slice of toast for breakfast.

The hen laid the eggs.

- Proper adjectives are formed from proper nouns.

**Proper Nouns**      America, Germany, China

**Proper Adjectives**      American, German, Chinese

**Directions** Underline each adjective and circle each article.

1. The family lived on a big ship.
2. This ship was called the *John Ena*.
3. They kept chickens and a noisy rooster.
4. The *John Ena* sailed to many parts of the world.
5. It was an interesting place to grow up.

**Directions** Decide what kind of question each underlined adjective answers. Write *What kind?* *How many?* or *Which one?*

6. Once we got caught in a terrible storm. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The storm lasted for five days. \_\_\_\_\_
8. That experience frightened us all. \_\_\_\_\_