

# CALLAN

## English

**Student's transition material**

**Stage 9 (2nd edition) – Stage 10 (3rd edition)**

## **Adjective order**

Most of the time, we only use one adjective when we describe things. We might talk about "a lazy man", for example, or "an uneventful weekend". However, we sometimes use two or three adjectives, and then we must put them in their natural order, which is usually opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, and material. So, the sentence "She's wearing an ugly old French hat" sounds right, but "She's wearing a French old ugly hat" sounds wrong. "I've found a small blue plastic button" sounds OK, but "I've found a blue plastic small button" does not.

When you're writing, you can quickly check the best order for many adjectives by remembering this:

**"op s a sh . c o m"** – "op" for "opinion", "s" for "size", "a" for "age", "sh" for "shape", "c" for "colour", "o" for "origin", and "m" for material.

In English, is there a natural order in which we put adjectives?

Yes, in English, there's ...

OK, I'll say a sentence with adjectives in an unnatural order, and you repeat it, putting them in their natural order:

She has a grey young cat.

She has a young grey cat.

They live in a stone large ancient house.

They live in a large ancient stone house.

She's wearing yellow round big glasses.

She's wearing big round yellow glasses.

We've just bought a leather new Italian gorgeous sofa.

We've just bought a gorgeous new Italian leather sofa.