



Order of Adjectives: Commas, "And" & Mixed Adjective Order Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. He wore a ___ tie to the interview.
a) red blue
b) red and blue
c) blue red and
d) red, blue and
2. They moved into a ___ cottage in the countryside.
a) little, charming
b) charming, little
c) charming little
d) little charming
3. She described him as a ___ man.
a) thinly, tall
b) tall, thin
c) tall thin
d) thin tall
4. We adopted a ___ kitten from the rescue centre.
a) cute, tiny, black
b) tiny cute black
c) black tiny cute
d) cute tiny black
5. The room was decorated with ___ curtains.
a) green and gold long
b) long green, gold
c) long green and gold
d) green long and gold
6. She bought a ___ handbag at the market.
a) gorgeous Italian leather
b) Italian gorgeous leather
c) gorgeous, Italian, leather
d) leather Italian gorgeous
7. She found a ___ lamp at the flea market.
a) old pretty brass
b) pretty, old, brass
c) pretty old brass
d) brass old pretty
8. He painted the fence in ___ stripes.
a) black and white
b) black white
c) black, white
d) white and black
9. We enjoyed ___ seafood at the harbour restaurant.
a) fantastic, fresh, local
b) fantastic fresh local
c) fresh fantastic local
d) local fantastic fresh
10. The artist used ___ paints for the mural.
a) red bright and orange
b) red and orange bright
c) bright red and orange
d) bright, red and orange
11. She received a ___ watch for her birthday.
a) beautiful, new, Swiss
b) beautiful new Swiss
c) new beautiful Swiss
d) Swiss new beautiful

12. We spent the night in a ____ cellar.
a) cold, damp
b) cold damp
c) coldly, damp
d) damp cold
13. He inherited a ____ clock from his grandfather.
a) old wonderful German
b) German old wonderful
c) wonderful, old, German
d) wonderful old German
14. The garden was full of ____ butterflies.
a) blue, yellow
b) blue yellow
c) yellow and blue
d) blue and yellow
15. She sold her ____ furniture before moving abroad.
a) heavy, bulky
b) bulkily, heavy
c) heavy bulky
d) bulky heavy
16. The palace had ____ gates at the entrance.
a) old enormous iron
b) enormous old iron
c) iron old enormous
d) enormous, old, iron
17. He wore a ____ suit to the wedding.
a) smart, elegant
b) elegant smart
c) elegantly, smart
d) smart elegant
18. We bought ____ cushions for the new sofa.
a) large four square
b) four square large
c) square four large
d) four large square
19. The store had a ____ selection of chocolates.
a) varied wide
b) wide varied
c) wide, varied
d) varied, wide
20. She painted the bedroom walls a ____ shade.
a) blue soft pale
b) pale soft blue
c) blue pale soft
d) soft pale blue



Answers

1. b) red and blue
2. c) charming little
3. b) tall, thin
4. d) cute tiny black
5. c) long green and gold
6. a) gorgeous Italian leather
7. c) pretty old brass
8. a) black and white
9. b) fantastic fresh local
10. c) bright red and orange
11. b) beautiful new Swiss
12. a) cold, damp
13. d) wonderful old German
14. d) blue and yellow
15. a) heavy, bulky
16. b) enormous old iron
17. a) smart, elegant
18. d) four large square
19. c) wide, varied
20. d) soft pale blue



Explanations

1. “red and blue” (b)

'Red' and 'blue' are both colour adjectives (same OSASCOMP category), so they are joined with 'and'. We do not simply place two colours side by side without a connector.

2. “charming little” (c)

'Charming' (opinion) and 'little' (size) are from different OSASCOMP categories, so no comma is needed. Opinion comes before size.

3. “tall, thin” (b)

'Tall' and 'thin' are both size/physical description adjectives (same category). The swap test confirms this: 'a thin, tall man' also sounds natural. Same-category adjectives need a comma between them.

4. “cute tiny black” (d)

Opinion (cute) → Size (tiny) → Colour (black) — these are from different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas are needed between them.

5. “long green and gold” (c)

Size (long) comes first. Then 'green' and 'gold' are both colours (same category), so they are joined with 'and'. Different categories (size vs colour) do not need a comma.

6. “gorgeous Italian leather” (a)

Opinion (gorgeous) → Origin (Italian) → Material (leather) — different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas. 'Gorgeous, Italian, leather' incorrectly adds commas between different-category adjectives.

7. “pretty old brass” (c)

Opinion (pretty) → Age (old) → Material (brass) — these are from different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas are needed between them.

8. “black and white” (a)

'Black and white' is the conventional colour pairing joined with 'and' because both are from the same category (colour). Same-category adjectives need 'and' (not a comma) when there are only two: 'black and white stripes'. 'White and black' reverses the conventional order. 'Black, white' incorrectly uses a comma instead of 'and'.

9. “fantastic fresh local” (b)

Opinion (fantastic) → Condition (fresh) → Origin (local) — different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas are needed.

10. “bright red and orange” (c)

Quality (bright) comes first, modifying both colours. Then 'red and orange' are both colours (same category) joined with 'and'. No comma is needed between 'bright' and the colour pair because they are from different categories.

11. “beautiful new Swiss” (b)

Opinion (beautiful) → Age (new) → Origin (Swiss) — different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas. Opinion always comes first.

12. “cold, damp” (a)

'Cold' and 'damp' are both physical condition adjectives (same category). The swap test confirms this: 'a damp, cold cellar' also sounds natural. When adjectives belong to the same category, use a comma between them.

13. “wonderful old German” (d)

Opinion (wonderful) → Age (old) → Origin (German) — different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas are needed between them.

14. “blue and yellow” (d)

'Blue' and 'yellow' are both colour adjectives (same OSASCOMP category), so they should be joined with 'and'. 'Yellow and blue' reverses the conventional order. Simply placing two colours next to each other without a connector sounds unnatural.

15. “heavy, bulky” (a)

'Heavy' and 'bulky' are both size adjectives (same OSASCOMP category). The swap test confirms this: 'bulky, heavy furniture' also sounds natural. When two adjectives belong to the same category, a comma separates them.

16. “enormous old iron” (b)

Size (enormous) → Age (old) → Material (iron) — different OSASCOMP categories, so no commas. Size always precedes age, and age precedes material.

17. “smart, elegant” (a)

'Smart' and 'elegant' are both opinion adjectives (same category). The swap test confirms this: 'an elegant, smart suit' also sounds natural. Same-category adjectives need a comma between them.

18. “four large square” (d)

Numbers (four) come first, then Size (large) → Shape (square). Different OSASCOMP categories do not need commas.

19. “wide, varied” (c)

'Wide' and 'varied' are both general quality adjectives (same category). The swap test: 'a varied, wide selection' also works. Same-category adjectives are separated by a comma. 'Wide varied' and 'varied wide' are wrong because same-category adjectives need a comma or 'and' between them.

20. “soft pale blue” (d)

When multiple colour-related words appear, the general quality modifier (soft) comes first, then the specific shade modifier (pale), then the colour (blue). This follows the opinion → specific quality → colour pattern.