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Adjectives and Adverbs

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In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful

“Allah will rise up, to (suitable) ranks (and degrees), those of you who believe and who have been granted (mystic) Knowledge. And Allah is well-acquainted with all ye do.”

Surah Al-Mujadilah – 11

True are the words of Allah the Almighty

Dedication

To all of our family and friends

Acknowledgement

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List of contents

1. Parts of Speech	1
1. Nouns	1
2. Adjectives	5
3. Adverbs	7
4. A Definition of Adjectives	8
4.1 Kinds of Adjectives	8
4.2. Position of Adjectives	9
4.3. Comparison	12
4.4 Adjectives Functioning as Nouns	13
4.5. Nouns Functioning as Adjectives	14
4.6 Negation of Adjectives	15
5. Definition of Adverbs	16
5.1 Classification of Adverbs According to Meaning	17
5.2. Classification of Adverbs According to Position	18
References	19

1.Parts of speech

1.noun

1.1 Identifying nouns

Nouns are commonly defined as words that refer to a person, place, thing, or idea. How can you identify a noun?

For example, the boy sounds like a unit, so boy is a noun. The chair sounds like a unit, so chair is a noun. Compare these nouns to the very, the walked, the because, Very, walked, and because are not nouns. While you can easily put the and very together (for example, the very tall boy), the very, by itself, does not work as a unit while the chair does. So, chair is a noun; very is not. (There is one kind of noun that cannot always have the in front of it;

(Altenberg & Vago,2010 :3)

1.2 Nouns Kinds and function

A. There are four kinds of noun in English:

1. Common nouns: dog, man, table
2. Proper nouns: France, Madrid, Mrs Smith, Tom
3. Abstract nouns:beauty, chanty, courage, fear.joy
4. Collective nouns: crowd, flock, group, swarm, team

B. A noun can function as:

- The subject of a verb: Tom arrived.
- The complement of the verbs be, become, seem: Tom is an actor.
- The object of a verb:/saw Tom. The object of a preposition:/spoke to Tom.
- A noun can also be in the possessive case: Tom's books.

Gender:

- Masculine: men, boys and male animals (pronoun he/they).
- Feminine:women, girls and female animals (pronoun she/they).
- Neuter: inanimate things, animals whose we don't know and sometimes babies whose sex we don't know (pronoun it/they).

- Exceptions: Ships, sometimes cars, and other vehicles when regarded with affection or respect are considered feminine. Countries when referred to by name are also normally considered feminine.

The ship struck an iceberg, which tore a huge hole in her side.

Scotland lost many of her bravest men in two great rebellions.

Masculine/feminine nouns denoting people

1 Different forms

(a) boy.girt gentleman,lady son, daughter

bachelor, spinster husband, wife uncle, aunt

bridegroom, bride man, woman widower, widow

father, mother nephew, niece

Main exceptions: infant

baby relative

child parent

spouse

cousin

relation

teenager

(b) duke, duchess king,queen prince, princess eari, countess lord,lady

2 The majority of nouns indicating occupation have the same form:

artist driver guide

cook

assistant

dancer

Main exceptions:

doctor

actor, actress host, hostess etc.

conductor, conductress manager, manageress

heir, Heiress steward, stewardess

hero, heroine waiter, waitress

Also salesman, saleswoman etc., but sometimes-person is used instead of man,-woman: salesperson, spokesperson.

C Domestic animals and many of the larger wild animals have different forms:

bull, cow cock,hen dog, bitch gander, goose stag,doe lion, lioness Others have the same form. tiger,tigress

duck, drake ram,ewe stallion, mare (Thomson & Martinet,1986:16)

Singular and plural nouns

What is the difference between cat and cats? The noun cat is used when it refers to only one cat; its form is singular. The noun cats is used when it represents more than one cat; its form is plural. Thus, the singular and plural forms tell us about number. Below are some nouns in their singular and plural forms.

(Singular→Plural) (box→boxes) (bed→beds) (kite→kites) (day→days) (country→countries) (man→men) (child→children), (ALTENBERG & VAGo,2010.9).

Regular and irregular plurals

Usually, we pluralize a noun by adding an "s" to it, as in books; these nouns are called regular. There are a handful of nouns that are pluralized in other ways; these nouns are called irregular. Irregular nouns form their plural in different ways. Here are some common patterns:

1. changing a vowel: man/men, for example
2. adding "ren" or "en": child/children, for example
3. adding nothing: fish/fish, for example
4. changing "f" to "v" and then adding "s": knife knives,

(Altenberg & Vago,2010: 9)

Count and noncount nouns

Let's take a closer look at the noun hand. Notice that you can say the following:

the hand a hand hands

Here are some other nouns which demonstrate the same pattern:

the store → a store → stores

the idea → an idea → ideas

the tissue → a tissue → tissues

Let's compare hand to the noun furniture. As with hand, we can say the furniture. But we can't say "a furniture or furnitures. Here are some other nouns which demonstrate the same pattern as furniture:

the dust → "a dust → *dusts

the energy → *an energy → energies

the biology → a biology → "biologies

Thus, there are some nouns that can be counted, and so we can use a or an with them and can also make them plural. These nouns are called, appropriately, count nouns. Hand is a count noun. So are store, idea, and tissue.

There are other nouns that typically are not counted, and so we do not use a or an with them and do not typically make them plural. These nouns are called, also appropriately, noncount nouns. (Another name for a noncount noun is a mass noun) Furniture is a non-count noun. So are dust, energy, and biology.

You may well be saying to yourself, "Wait a minute. I can count furniture. I can say something like: three couches and three chairs make six pieces of furniture." And of course, you'd be right. But notice that in this sentence, the words couch and chair can be made plural, but not the word furniture. And the word piece can be made plural, but, again, not the word furniture.

(Altenberg & Vago, 2010 :14)

2. Adjectives

Identifying adjectives

An adjective is a word that refers to a characteristic of a noun. How can you identify an adjective?

If you can put a word between the and a noun (like boy, or idea), then that word is an adjective.

For example, since we can say the tall boy, tall is an adjective. Similarly, we can say the silly boy, the interesting boy, and the young boy. Therefore, silly, interesting, and young are all adjectives.

A number of adjectives, all used in the phrase the adjectives are underlined: boy are listed below. The

1. the brilliant boy
2. the embarrassed boy
3. the blonde boy
4. the hungry boy

5. the delightful boy

Compare these phrases to the very boy, the a boy, and the talk boy. Very, a, and talk are not adjectives.

What do adjectives actually do? Adjectives always tell us something about a noun. Another way of saying this is that they modify a noun. In the phrases we've just looked at, the underlined adjectives tell us something about, or modify, the noun boy. (Altenberg & Vago, 2010 :58)

Characteristics of the adjective

We cannot tell whether a word is an adjective by looking at it in isolation: the form does not necessarily indicate its syntactic function. Some suffixes are indeed found only with adjectives, eg: -ous (App I.20), but many common adjectives have no identifying shape, eg: good, hot, little, young, fat. Nor can we identify a word as an adjective merely by considering what inflections or affixes it will allow. It is true that many adjectives inflect for the comparative and superlative, eg: great, greater, greatest. But many do not allow inflected forms, eg: disastrous, *disastrouser, *disastrousest (5.36). Moreover, a few adverbs can be similarly inflected, eg: (He worked) hard, harder, hardest (5.38). It is also true

that many adjectives provide the base from which adverbs are derived by means of an -ly suffix, eg: adjective happy, adverb happily (App I.22). Nevertheless, some do not allow this derivational process; for example, there is no adverb *oldly derived from the adjective old. And there are a few adjectives that are themselves derived from an adjective base in this way, eg: kindly, an item functioning also as an adverb.

Most adjectives can be both attributive and predicative (5.3), but some are either attributive only (5.13f) or predicative only (5.18).

Two other features usually apply to adjectives:

(1) Most can be premodified by the intensifier very, eg: The children are very happy.

(2) Most can take comparative and superlative forms. The comparison may be by means of inflections, eg: The children are happier now, They are the happiest people I know, or by the addition of the pre-modifiers more and most (periphrastic comparison) eg: These students are more intelligent, They are the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen

(Gulrk & Greenbaum, 1976 :114)

Syntactic functions of adjectives

An ADJECTIVE PHRASE is a phrase with an adjective as head, as in (He was) so very happy, or as sole realization, as in (He was) happy. Adjectives function syntactically only in adjective phrases, but since it is the adjective that generally determines the function of the adjective phrase, we have often found it convenient to use adjectives alone to illustrate the functions of adjective phrases and we have often referred to adjectives as a shorter way of referring to adjective phrases.

Syntactic functions of adjectives

Attributive and predicative

The major syntactic functions of adjectives are attributive and predicative.

Adjectives are attributive when they premodify nouns, ie: appear between the determiner (4.5) and the head of the noun phrase:

the beautiful painting

his main argument

Predicative adjectives can be

(a) subject complement:

Your daughter is pretty

(b) object complement:

He made his wife happy

They can be complement to a subject which is a finite clause (11.3):

Whether he will resign is uncertain

or a non-finite clause (11.3):

Driving a bus isn't easy

Similarly, adjectives can be object complement to clauses:

I consider foolish what he did playing so hard

The adjective functioning as object complement often expresses the result of the process denoted by the verb (7.9):

He pulled his belt tight (As a result, his belt was then tight)

He pushed the window open (As a result, the window was then open)

(Gulrk & Greenbaum , 1976 :115)

3. Adverbs

Identifying adverbs

We've saved adverbs for last because they can be a bit tricky. Adverbs do lots of different

things and can be in lots of different places in a sentence. In fact, the chances are, if you

don't know what else a word is, it's probably an adverb.

The adverbs are underlined in the sentences below:

1. I live here. (information about location)
2. My brother is arriving today. (information about time)
3. She dances gracefully. (information about manner)

4. That child is very sweet. (degree information about an adjective, in this case,

about sweet)

5. She works extremely efficiently. (degree information about another adverb, in

this case, about efficiently)

(Altenberg&Vago, 2010 :103)

4. Definition of Adjectives

4.1. Kinds of Adjectives

Adjective

Kinds of adjectives

The main kinds are:

(a) Demonstrative: this, that, these, those (see 9)

(b) Distributive: each, every(46): either, neither(49)

(c) Quantitative: some, any, no (50): little/few(5); many, much (25): one, twenty(349)

(d) Interrogative: which, what, whose (54)

(e) Possessive: my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their(62)

(f) Of quality: clever, dry, fat, golden, good, heavy, square(19)

Participles used as adjectives

Both present participles (ing) and past participles (ed) can be used as adjectives. Care must be taken not to confuse them. Present participle adjectives, amusing, boring, tiring etc., are active and mean 'having this effect'. Past participle adjectives, amused, horrified, tired etc., are passive and mean 'affected in this way'.

The play was boring. (The audience was bored.)

The work was tiring. (The workers were soon tired.)

The scene was horrifying. (The spectators were horrified.)

an infuriating woman (She made us furious.)

an infuriated woman (Something had made her furious.)

Agreement

Adjectives in English have the same form for singular and plural, masculine and feminine nouns:

a good boy, good boys a good girl, good girls

The only exceptions are the demonstrative adjectives *this* and *that*, which change to *these* and *those* before plural nouns:

this cat, *these* cats *that* man, *those* men

Many adjectives/participles can be followed by prepositions: *good at*, *tired of* (see 96).

(Thomson & Martinet, 1986 :22)

4.2 position of Adjectives

Position of adjectives: attributive and predicative use

Adjectives in groups (a)-(e) above come before their nouns:

this book *which* boy *my* dog

Adjectives in this position are called attributive adjectives.

Adjectives of quality, however, can come either before their nouns:

a *nice* man a *happy* girl

or after a verb such as (a) *be*, *become*, *seem*.

Tom *became* rich. Ann *seems* happy.

or (b) *appear*, *feel*, *get/grow* (=become), *keep*, *look* (=appear), *make*, *smell*, *sound*, *taste*, *turn*:

Tom *felt* cold. He *got/grew* impatient.

He *made* her happy. The idea *sounds* interesting.

Adjectives in this position are called predicative adjectives. Verbs used in this way are called link verbs or copulas.

One problem with verbs in B(b) above is that when they are not used as link verbs they can be modified by adverbs in the usual way. This confuses the student, who often tries to use adverbs instead of adjectives after link verbs. Some examples with adjectives and adverbs may help to show the different uses:

He looked calm (adjective)=He had a calm expression.

He looked calmly (adverb) at the angry crowd. (looked here is a deliberate action.)

She turned pale (adjective)=She became pale.

He turned angrily (adverb) to the man behind him.(turned here is a deliberate action.)

The soup tasted horrible (adjective). (It had a horrible taste.)

He tasted the soup suspiciously (adverb).(tasted here is a deliberate action.)

D Some adjectives can be used only attributively or only predicatively, and some change their meaning when moved from one position to the other.

bad/good, big/small, heavy/light and old, used in such expressions as bad sailor, good

swimmer, big eater, small farmer, heavy drinker, light sleeper, old boy/friend/soldier etc.,

cannot be used predicatively without changing the meaning a small farmer is a man who has

a small farm, but The farmer is small means that he is a small man physically. Used

otherwise, the above adjectives can be in either position.

(For little, old, young, see also 19 B.) chief, main, principal, sheer, utter come before their nouns.

frightened may be in either position, but afraid and upset must follow the verb and so must adrift, afloat, alike (see 21 G). alive, alone, ashamed, asleep.

The meaning of early and late may depend on their position:

an early/a late train means a train scheduled to run early or late in the day. The train is early/late means that it is before/after its proper time-poor meaning 'without enough money can precede the noun or follow the verb.

meaning 'unfortunate' must precede the noun.

poor meaning 'weak/inadequate' precedes nouns such as student, worker etc. but when used with inanimate nouns can be in either position:

He has poor sight. His sight is poor.

Use of and

With attributive adjectives and is used chiefly when there are two or more adjectives of colour. It is then placed before the last of these:

a green and brown carpet a red, white and blue flag

With predicative adjectives and is placed between the last two:

The day was cold, wet and windy

(Thomson & Martinet, 1986 :22)

Form and position of most adjectives [>LEG 6.4, 6.7]

Rewrite these sentences so that the adjectives come after be:

1 This is a big company. This company is

2 Kevin and Matthew are clever boys. Kevin and Matthew

3 Nina is a hardworking girl. Nina

4 These are busy streets. These streets

5 They're well-behaved children. The children

Adjectives that can change in meaning before a noun or after 'be' [>LEG 6.7, 6.8]

-before a noun: John is an old friend of mine. (=I've known him for a long time)

-after be:

Rewrite these sentences using adjectives with the same meaning as the words in italics.

1 John is a friend whom I have known for a very long time.

John is *an old friend*.

2 Some money was left to me by my uncle who is dead.

Some money was left *.....*

3 She drew a line which I could hardly see.

She drew *..*

4 Your suitcase weighs a lot.

Your suitcase is.....

5 Susan smokes a lot.

She's.

Which words or phrases in B will replace words or phrases in A?

A

B

1 Her wedding dress is made of beautiful silk.

a) a sick

2 The weather is good today.

b) fine (twice)

3 Something's upset me. I think I'm going to throw up.

c) very ill

4 John is extremely unwell.
early

d) In the

5 I was born at the beginning of the 1960s.

e) be sick

6 Martha is not a healthy woman.

(Alexander, 1998:82)

4.3 Comparison

Functions

- **Adjectives:** Adjectives primarily modify nouns or pronouns. They provide descriptive details about the qualities, characteristics, or states of being of those nouns or pronouns, For example:
 - “The **tall** man walked slowly.”
 - “Her **brilliant** idea solved the problem.”
- **Adverbs:** Adverbs primarily modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They add information about manner, time, place, frequency, degree, or other circumstances related to the elements they modify). For example:
 - “She sings **beautifully**.”
 - “The train arrived **quite** late.”
 - “The answer is **extremely** simple.”

(Nordquist, 2020:10) (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 553)

Similarities

- **Semantic Overlap:** Adjectives and adverbs can share semantic content. The word "fast" can function either as an adjective ("a fast car") or an adverb ("drive fast")
- **Gradability:** Both adjectives and adverbs can be graded using intensifiers like "very" or comparatives like "more" For example:
 - "A very interesting book" (adjective)
 - "He spoke very slowly" (adverb)

(Quirk et al., 1985: 445) (Carter & McCarthy, 2006: 542).

Differences

- **Position:** Adjectives typically precede the nouns they modify, while adverbs have more flexible placement within sentences (Biber et. al, 1999: 52).
- **Formation:** Many adverbs are formed by adding "-ly" to adjectives (e.g., quick -> quickly), though there are exceptions (Greenbaum, 1996: 72).

4.4 Adjectives Functioning as Nouns

Types of Adjectives Used as Nouns

- **General Qualities:** Adjectives expressing general qualities or abstract concepts can easily function as nouns. Examples include "the good," "the bad," "the beautiful," and "the unknown" (Quirk et al., 1985: 1576). These often refer to groups of people or abstract ideas within a broader concept.
- **Nationalities and Groups:** Adjectives denoting nationality or membership in specific groups are frequently employed as nouns. Examples include "the French," "the British," "the wealthy," and "the oppressed" (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002:489). Here, the adjective implies a collective of people who share that characteristic.

- **Colors:** Color adjectives readily become nouns: "Add more red to the painting," "Blue is my favorite." (Carter & McCarthy, 2006: 339).

Nominalization Processes

- **Zero Conversion:** The most common process is zero conversion, where the adjective form directly functions as a noun without any changes ("the poor", "the brave") (Biber et. al, 1999: 213).
- **Definite Article:** Adding the definite article "the" before an adjective is a clear signal of nominalization (Bauer, 1983:66).

Grammatical Implications

Adjectives used as nouns adopt characteristics of nouns:

- **Pluralization:** They can take plural forms ("the wilds," "the meek") (Greenbaum, 1996: 186).
- **Determiner Use:** They can be preceded by determiners like "a," "an," "the," or possessives ("a strange," "his ugly") (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 489).

4.5 Nouns Functioning as Adjectives

Nouns primarily become adjectives through a process of juxtaposition, where they are placed directly before another noun. The modifying noun essentially describes a characteristic or attribute of the noun it precedes (Biber et al., 1999: 211). Some common examples and categories include:

- **Materials:** "gold ring," "brick wall," "cotton shirt" (Carter & McCarthy, 2006:339).
- **Time and Place:** "summer vacation," "city park," "morning class" (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 449).
- **Purpose:** "kitchen knife," "tennis shoes," "shopping bag" (Nordquist, 2020).
- **Composition:** "chocolate cake," "chicken soup," "fruit salad" (Greenbaum, 1996. : 153).

Features

- **Position:** Attributive nouns almost always occur directly before the noun they modify (Quirk et al., 1985:1334).
- **Singular Form:** Nouns functioning as adjectives usually remain in their singular form, even if the noun they modify is plural (e.g., "car doors", "sports injuries") (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 449).
- **Hyphenation:** Compound phrases created from attributive nouns are often hyphenated for clarity (e.g., "brick-red dress," "child-centered approach") (Carter & McCarthy, 2006: 339).

4.6 Negation of Adjectives

Prefixes of Negation

- **un-:** This is the most versatile prefix of negation, attaching to numerous adjectives to indicate the opposite quality (e.g., unhappy, unhealthy, unfair) (Quirk et al., 1985: 1561).
- **in-:** Used with adjectives of Latin origin, 'in-' often indicates "not" or "lack of" (e.g, inaccurate, incomplete, invisible) (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 1709).
- **Other Prefixes:** Prefixes like 'im-' (impolite), 'ir-' (irregular), 'non-' (nonverbal), and 'dis-' (dishonest) also convey negation but are less common or have more specialized uses (Bauer, 1983: 232).

The Adverb "not"

The adverb "not" is a flexible negator, placed directly before most adjectives to reverse their meaning (Biber et. al, 1999: 557). For example:

- The answer is not correct.
- She seems not interested.

Antonyms

- Replacing "happy" with "sad"
 - Replacing "hot" with "cold"
- (Greenbaum, 1996, 171).

- **Not all adjectives have direct negations:** Some adjectives lack clear-cut opposites or readily formed negations.
- **Context Matters:** The most appropriate way to negate an adjective depends on context and the desired emphasis.
- **Gradable Antonyms:** Antonyms often exist on a spectrum rather than as absolute opposites (e.g., hot - warm - cool - cold) (Carter & McCarthy, 2006:95)

5. Definition of Adverbs

- **Verbs:** Adverbs often describe how, when, where, why, or to what extent an action occurs. Examples:
 - She sings **loudly**. (manner)
 - The train is arriving **soon**. (time)
 - We traveled **north**. (place)
- **Adjectives:** Adverbs can intensify or diminish the meaning of adjectives. Examples:
 - The meal was **incredibly** delicious. (intensifier)
 - The problem is **rather** complex. (diminisher)
- **Other Adverbs:** Adverbs can also modify other adverbs. Examples:
 - The speaker talked **too quickly**.
 - She answered the question **quite confidently**.
- **Whole Sentences:** Some adverbs, known as sentence adverbs, modify an entire sentence or clause, expressing the speaker's attitude or viewpoint. Examples:
 - **Frankly**, I don't believe you.
 - **Surprisingly**, the results were inconclusive.

(Huddleston & Pullum, 2002:564)

Characteristics

- **Flexibility:** Adverbs have flexible positioning in sentences, appearing before, after, or within the elements they modify (Biber et al., 1999: 73).
- **Varied Forms:** Many adverbs are formed by adding "-ly" to adjectives (e.g., quickly, sadly). However, there are numerous irregular adverbs (e.g., well, often, very) (Greenbaum, 1996:72).
- **Semantic Roles:** Adverbs express a wide range of meanings, including manner, place, time, frequency, degree, certainty, viewpoint, and connection

(Carter & McCarthy, 2006:539).

5.1 Classification of Adverbs According to Meaning

- **Adverbs of Manner:** These are perhaps the most common type, describing *how* an action occurs. Examples include: quickly, carefully, loudly, sadly (Carter & McCarthy, 2006: 540).
- **Adverbs of Place:** These indicate *where* an action takes place. Examples include: here, there, inside, upstairs, northward (Biber et. al, 1999: 74).
- **Adverbs of Time:** These specify *when* or *how often* an action happens. Examples include: yesterday, soon, always, frequently, sometimes (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 566).
- **Adverbs of Degree:** These express the intensity or extent of something. Examples include: very, extremely, quite, rather, almost (Greenbaum, 1996: 82).
- **Adverbs of Certainty:** These indicate the speaker's level of conviction or doubt about something. Examples include: surely, certainly, probably, possibly (Biber et al., 1999: 441)
- **Adverbs of Viewpoint:** These express the speaker's attitude or judgment towards a statement. Examples include: frankly, honestly, surprisingly, fortunately (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 564).

- **Adverbs of Connection:** These create links and logical relationships between clauses or sentences. Examples include: however, therefore, moreover, consequently (Carter & McCarthy, 2006: 51).

5.2 Classification of Adverbs According to Position

- **Front Position (Initial):** Adverbs at the beginning of a sentence usually modify the entire sentence or clause. They frequently express the speaker's viewpoint or set the context. Examples:
 - **Fortunately**, we arrived just in time.
 - **Frankly**, I don't care what happens. (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 825)
- **Mid Position:** Adverbs in mid-position generally modify the verb or the verb phrase. Examples:
 - She **always** eats breakfast.
 - He drives **too** fast. (Biber, et. al, 1999: 708).
- **End Position:** Adverbs at the end of a sentence often indicate place, time, or manner. Examples:
 - The cat slept **inside**.
 - We'll start the project **tomorrow**. (Carter & McCarthy, 2006: 540)
- **Mobility:** Many adverbs can occupy multiple positions depending on the intended emphasis or nuance. For example: "Often I write late at night" vs. "I write often late at night." (Greenbaum, 1996: 85).
- **Focus Adverbs:** These adverbs (also, even, only, just) have relatively fixed positions and focus attention on a particular element in the sentence (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 580).
- **Sentence Adverbs:** Certain adverbs can function as complete sentences on their own (e.g., "Apparently.", "Hopefully.") (Biber et al., 1999: 76).

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