

3rd form adjectives: before or after the noun?

The third form of a verb can be an adjective. For example:

broken, used, taught, applied

Normally, in the case of an adjective + noun combination, the adjective is before the noun. The adjective then refers to a **property of** the noun, for example:

used car (not new)

developed countries (countries that are at a higher level of development)

applied physics (a branch of physics)

I underlined the adjectives with a dotted line.

In some cases, however, the adjective can come after the noun! (In such cases, the adjective can sometimes also be placed before the noun, but that is not beautiful).

The car used was a Bugatti Chiron. – The car that was used was a Bugatti Chiron.

In this case it is not that the car was not new, but someone used the car for something.

In this case, the adjective can usually be expanded without a change in the basic meaning:

The car used in the car chase was a Bugatti Chiron.

In contrast:

The used car was a Bugatti Chiron. – The Bugatti Chiron was not new, it was a used car.

So, for example, there was a new car, but there was also a second-hand car, and that was a Bugatti Chiron.

More examples:

The method applied/employed/used/developed was not new.

The point here is that the method someone used was not new. The adjective does not describe a property of the method.

In contrast to applied physics, which is contrasted with theoretical physics. These two terms describe two branches of physics, not what we have done with physics.

The subjects taught are all technical subjects.

All subjects taught (in a specific course) are technical subjects.

In this case, I can't give you a good example of *taught subjects*, but you could think of it as there are subjects that are taught (all over the world) and there are subjects that are not taught (nowhere in the world), and we're talking about the ones that are. So that would be a difficult situation to imagine.