Some adjectives are only used in **predicative position**. That means they go after **be** and other copular verbs (e.g. seem, look, become, turn, feel etc.). Adjectives that are only used in the predicative position usually begin with the letter **a**. Examples are: *afloat, afraid, alright, alike, alive, alone, asleep* and *awake*. In the attributive position (before a noun), we use other words or phrases to express the same idea.

She read for a while and then fell **asleep**.

Do not disturb a **sleeping baby**. (BUT NOT Do not disturb an asleep baby.)

The vessel is still **afloat**.

A **floating leaf** (BUT NOT an afloat leaf)

**Afloat** cannot be used before a noun.

He was **afraid**.

John is a **frightened man**. (NOT John is an afraid man.)

**Afraid** cannot be used before a noun.

The adjectives **ill** and **well** are mostly used in the predicative position. Before a noun, we use other words with similar meanings.

He is very **well**.

He is a **healthy man**. OR He is a **fit man**. (NOT He is a well man.)

She is **ill**.

Who looks after **sick people**? (NOT Who looks after **ill people**?)

**Ill** is not normally used before a noun.