Adjectives

There are two types of adjectives in Japanese.

1. い -adjectives (e.g. あかい, ひろい, etc.)
2. な -adjectives (e.g. きれいな, しまかなく, etc.)

い -adjectives and な -adjectives are clearly distinguished when they occur before a noun.

あかいほん  'a red book'
きれいなほん  'a pretty book'

The distinction, however, is lost when they occur at the end of a sentence.

このほんはあかいです。'This book is red.'
このほんはきれいです。'This book is pretty.'

Since い adjectives and な adjectives conjugate differently, it is very important to remember them in い form or な form. Nouns and な -adjectives, for the most part, conjugate in a similar manner.

ex. past tense
Noun ---＞ がくせいでした。
       '...... was a student.'

な -adjective ---＞ きれいでした。
       '...... was pretty.'

い -adjectives, however, have a different conjugation for the past tense.

(cf. あかかったです。'...... was red.')