

The Adverb

3b. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells *where, when, how, or to what extent (how much or how long)*.

- EXAMPLES** The popularity of television grew **slowly**. [*Slowly modifies the verb grew, telling how.*]
Some people were **rather** pessimistic about the future of television. [*Rather modifies the adjective pessimistic, telling to what extent.*]
Others had believed **quite strongly** in its potential. [*Quite modifies the adverb strongly, telling to what extent. Strongly modifies the verb had believed, telling how.*]

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, underline the adverb(s).

Example 1. The contestants arrived surprisingly early.

1. Each skater practiced nearby.
2. The fans waited impatiently.
3. The skaters moved quite gracefully.
4. One skater seemed very nervous.
5. She stopped practicing rather early.
6. She sat silently and waited.
7. Her coach came quickly to see her.
8. He calmly encouraged her.
9. She began to skate quite skillfully.
10. Another skater moved somewhat reluctantly.
11. He timidly approached his coach.
12. His coach whispered softly to him.
13. The skater nodded enthusiastically.
14. He began to feel surprisingly confident.
15. He performed exceedingly well.
16. Then several other skaters danced.
17. Other skaters spun extremely well.
18. The fans applauded approvingly.
19. The judges decided the scores quickly.
20. The competition was unusually successful.

Adverbs and the Words They Modify

3b. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells *where, when, how, or to what extent (how much or how long)*.

EXAMPLES **Soon** many birds will be flying **south** for the winter. [The adverb *soon*, telling *when*, and the adverb *south*, telling *where*, modify the verb *will be flying*.]

Amelia appears **thoroughly** confident on the stage. [The adverb *thoroughly*, telling *to what extent*, modifies the adjective *confident*.]

Luis left the room **quite suddenly**. [The adverb *quite*, telling *to what extent*, modifies the adverb *suddenly*. *Suddenly*, telling *how*, modifies the verb *left*.]

EXERCISE Circle the adverbs in the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow from each adverb to the word it modifies.

Example 1. In the Arctic Circle, the cold winds can cut very quickly to the bone.



1. Only lichens and a few other hardy plants can actually grow in the Arctic Circle.
2. Lichens can be easily seen in a light dusting of snow.
3. Sometimes caribou feed on the lichens.
4. Would wolves be closely following the caribou?
5. Most people never experience the harsh environment of the tundra.
6. Is the blimp somewhat risky for passenger travel?
7. Thuan really liked the airships.
8. Airships are an extremely effective means of advertising.
9. They float magically among the clouds.
10. Current designs seem much safer than those of the past.
11. The submarine descended rather slowly.
12. No bird flies more swiftly than the peregrine falcon.
13. Janine's unusual invention works quite effectively.
14. For a beginner, Eugene plays chess extraordinarily well.
15. The team is playing much better.
16. The qualifying exam for a pilot's license is extremely difficult.
17. The song ended rather abruptly, I thought.
18. Turn left at the stop sign and proceed slowly.
19. If you come early to the concert, you can easily find a seat.
20. Amin took the news calmly.

Adverb or Adjective?

Many adverbs end in *-ly*. However, some words ending in *-ly* can be used as adjectives. Remember: An **adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb by telling *where*, *when*, *how*, or *to what extent* (*how much* or *how long*). An **adjective** modifies a noun or a pronoun by telling *what kind*, *which one*, *how many*, or *how much*.

EXAMPLES Melissa writes **daily** in her journal. [The adverb *daily* modifies the verb *writes*, telling *when*.]

Her journal is a **daily** record of events in her life. [The adjective *daily* modifies the noun *record*, telling *what kind*.]

EXERCISE A Above each underlined word in the following sentences, write *ADJ* if the underlined word is an *adjective* or write *ADV* if the underlined word is an *adverb*.

Example 1. Comets ^{ADV} sometimes produce meteors.

1. Comets often contain large rocks.
2. The rocks inside comets are held together by icy material.
3. A comet that passes by the sun enough times steadily loses its icy material.
4. Rocky material and grains of dust remain near the head of the comet and in its orbit.
5. These rocks and dust grains sometimes enter the earth's atmosphere.
6. These particles in the earth's atmosphere can cause a spectacular shower.
7. Meteors don't come only from comets.
8. In fact, meteors resulting from other sources in space are quite common.
9. The only meteor I've ever seen was an awe-inspiring sight.
10. If you gaze into the night sky, you are likely to see one.

EXERCISE B Above each underlined word in the following sentences, write *ADJ* if the underlined word is an *adjective* or write *ADV* if the underlined word is an *adverb*.

Example 1. A new moon occurs ^{ADV} monthly.

11. The monthly appearance of the full moon is always welcome.
12. Padgett is a very friendly dog.
13. Our cat always seems lonely.
14. Mom gave me a timely reminder to visit the dentist.
15. The newspaper arrives daily at 8 A.M.