

THE ADVERBS

The **adverb** modifies verbs, adjectives and another adverbs.

Examples: She walked quickly. (the adverb quickly modifies the verb walked)

Amelia is rather young for the job. (the adverb rather modifies the adjective young)

Adverbs also can modify entire clauses.

Examples: Perhaps you are wrong, but I will listen to your claims. (the adverb perhaps modifies the clause you are wrong)
Surely the train will be on time, but I hope not. (the adverb surely modifies the train will be on time)

Adverbs also can modify all the rest of a sentence.

Examples: Perhaps you picked up the wrong hat.
Surely, the train will soon be ready for service.

RECOGNIZING ADVERBS

Forms of Adverbs

Adverbs/Adjectives ending in *-ly*.

The easiest adverbs to recognize are those that end in *ly*. The only pitfall to avoid is confusing *ly* adverbs with *-ly* adjectives. Remember that adjectives modify only nouns and pronouns, Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives and another adverbs.

The following below are some adjectives that end in *ly*:

Comely, costly, early, lively, lovely, surely

Examples: A ***comely*** appearance is always admired.
Costly jewelry is beyond the reach of most students.
The trainer was a ***surely*** one, all right.

In the first five sentences, the underlined adjectives modify nouns ***appearance, jewelry, bird, tune, and sunset***. The last underlined adjective, surely modifies one, a pronoun.

Adverbs that end in *ly* are formed by adding *ly* to an adjective.

Adjective	Adverb
Beautiful	beautifully
Hateful	hatefully
Soft	softly

Present Participle adverb

fitting	fittingly
willing	willingly

Past Participle Adverb

Advised	advisedly
Affected	affectedly

When an adjective wends in -able, or -ible, the adverb is formed by changing the final e to y.

Peaceable – peaceably	horrible – horribly
Terrible – terribly	forcible forcibly

All the underlined words in the sentences are **adverbial** in functions. Surely modifies the entire sentence, it appears in. The others modify the verbs in the sentences.

Surely they will reconcile their differences.
He regarded her **hatefully**.
They were **terribly** mangled in the accident.

CLASSIFICATION OF ADVERBS

- 1. Adverbs of manner** answer the question how?
Examples: He works carefully.
Mother cooks well.
- 2. Adverbs of degree** answer the question how much?
Examples: He has completely exhausted his inheritance.
You are inadequately prepared for graduate studies.
- 3. Adverbs of time** answer the question when?
Examples: They arrive late for most appointments.
She has not played tennis recently.
- 4. Adverbs of place** answer the question where?
Examples: He walked downstairs.
They went south for the winter.
- 5. Adverbs of cause or purpose** answer the question why?
Examples: I will therefore quit the team.
She will consequently be dismissed.
- 6. Adverbs of assertion** answer the question true or false?
Examples: She will surely be hired for the job.
She is not acceptable in my home.

Distinguishing Adverbs from Adjectives

Many English words function both as adjectives and as adverbs. The easiest way to identify its function is to review the basic fundamental distinction between them. Adjectives modify nouns or pronouns; adverbs modify everything else.

The following words supply some of the words that are used as adjectives and adverbs.

Bad	first	right
Better	first	rough
Bright	hard	second
Cheap	high	sharp
Close	late	slow

Many of these words also have forms ending in **ly**: badly, brightly, cheaply, deeply, etc. The **ly** forms are preferred in formal English by some grammarians and, in many instances, are used exclusively in certain idiomatic constructions.

Examples: The arrow fell close to the mark.
Watch them closely.
She practices hard day.
She could hardly bend her fingers.

In both pairs of sentences, the modifiers **close**, **closely**, **hard**, **hardly**, perform adverbial functions. Close modifies the verb **tell**. Closely modifies the verb **watch**. Hard modifies the verb **practices**. Hardly modifies the verb **bend**. Thus, they are called adverbs.

By contrast, close and hard are used as adjectives in these sentences.

Examples: Close work strains my eyes.
Hard times will soon be upon us.

Close modifies the noun work. **Hard** modifies the noun **times**. Hardly and closely are never used as adjectives.

COMPARISON OF ADVERBS

Like adjectives, adverbs have three comparative forms. Absolute, comparative, superlative – to indicate greater or lesser degrees of the characteristics described.

Adverbs that are identical with adjectives form their comparative s and superlatives in the same manner. **Bad worse, worst/ well, better, best.** Even when the absolute form of an adverb ends in **-ly**, the comparative and superlative degrees timidly, more timidly, and most timidly. More and most are commonly used with adverbs containing more than one syllable.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Quickly	More quickly	Most quickly
Curiously	More curiously	Most curiously
Badly	More badly	Most badly
Beautifully	More beautifully	Most beautifully

Absolute Modifiers

An absolute modifier cannot be used in comparison. Its meaning is entirely contained in the positive degree. The most common absolute modifiers are:

Dead	infinite	Genuine	unique
Entirely	mortal	Identical	definite
Eternal	opposite	impossible	difficult
Fatal	perfect	final	infinite

POSITIONS OF ADVERBS IN SENTENCES

Adverbs usually come immediately before the **adjectives** or **adverbs** they modify.

Examples: He spoke very **eloquently**.
He is **certainly** versatile as an actor.

Adverbs normally follow the verb they modify.

Examples: The dancers danced **gracefully**.
The guest speaker spoke **honestly**.

As a rule, the adverbs **only, merely, just, almost ever, hardly, scarcely, quite, nearly** are placed next to the **words** they modify.

Examples: You should be **quite** certain of the answer.
He **nearly** ate the whole pie.
His presence is **only** allowed on Saturday.

Note: *Scarcely, hardly* and *only* should not be used with a negative formal usage tends to put only directly before the element it modifies. General usage tends to place it next to the verb.

Adverbs are usually placed between the *subject* and the *verb*.

Examples: The prisoner **now** thinks he is free.
He **then** went on his merry way.

Adverbs are placed at the beginning or at the end of the sentence.

Examples: **Yesterday**, I was reprimanded severely.
Slowly he turned the doorknob.

He turned the doorknob *slowly*.

Mid-position adverbs are normally placed between the subject and the verb.

Examples: Mr. Robles usually travels to Sydney once a year.
He always listens to the radio in the morning.

Mid-position adverbs are placed after the verb to be

Examples: He is always late.
The students are often in the library during their vacant periods.

FUNCTIONS OF ADVERBS

1. **Adverbs** are used to modify *verb*, an *adjective* or another *adverb*.

Examples: The guests left *hurriedly*.
She was *surprisingly* charming.
The music ended rather *abruptly*.

2. **Adverbs** may modify a whole sentence.

Examples: Surprisingly, he failed in the examination.
Unfortunately, we lost the championship.
Perhaps, he will return the book today.
Incidentally, you are barking the moon.

3. **Interrogative adverbs** introduce questions.

Examples: When did he arrive?
How did he solve the problem?
Where are you going?
Why is he complaining?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A. Rewrite the sentence if it contains an error in the use of modifiers. If it does not contain error, put a check on the blank.

1. The band, composed of four Psychology majors, played good last night.

2. That is the worse composition I have ever heard.

3. She thought she was late, but her co-teacher was even later.

4. "Is goat's milk really richer than a cow?" Joshua asked.

5. Zhaldy is definitely more disciplined than any other player in the basketball team.

6. Among all the crops in our farm, this one seems the least dead.

7. Selina is the viciousest villain on primetime television.

8. "Couldn't you think of a more subtle approach?" Siena asked.

9. My Korean student speaks more audibly now.

10. There was much hype on the Vizconde trial than there was on the mayor's case.

11. Much students were disgruntled over the policies being implemented by the college administration.

12. The new colonizers proved to be more cruel than their predecessors.

13. Who do you suppose is the better among the three competitors.

14. The new textbook seems to be more replete with errors than the previous one.

15. In his estimation, Hemingway is a better novelist than his contemporaries like Steinbeck and Faulkner.

B. Identify the underlined word is an adjective or an adverb.

- _____ 1. For decades now, Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry, Starry Night" has been constantly drawing a new generation of fans.
- _____ 2. The Barninger, the world's largest crater, is 1,265 meters wide.
- _____ 3. Lea Salonga became famous worldwide.
- _____ 4. In 1987, an anonymous collector bought Vincent Van Gogh's painting of irises for a little less than \$40 million.
- _____ 5. In spite of the long and painstaking search, no sign of King Solomon's first temple has been unearthed in Jerusalem.
- _____ 6. The moon usually looks blue after an enormous forest fire or a volcanic eruption.
- _____ 7. Imelda Marcos used to own the now famous two thousand pairs of shoes.
- _____ 8. Planet Earth makes one complete revolution around the sun in 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 9.54 seconds.
- _____ 9. The Spanish-American War might have never occurred if the media had reported the sinking of the battleship USS Maine less hysterically.
- _____ 10. In 1955, Martin Luther King, Jr. went on to lead the civil rights' quest after he had successfully led the boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama us system.

