

An **adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Adverbs help make meaning clear by telling *how*, *when*, *where*, or *to what extent* something is true.

Adverbs Used with Verbs

Adverbs that modify verbs tell *how*, *when*, *where*, or *to what extent* an action happened. Study the following list of adverbs.

How?	When?	Where?	To What Extent?
carefully	sometimes	inside	fully
quickly	once	underground	very
sorrowfully	now	here	quite
hurriedly	finally	there	extremely

Notice how adverbs make the following sentence clearer:

The door of the tomb opened.

Finally, the door of the tomb *slowly* opened.

Adverbs make the meaning of the verb *opened* clearer.

Adverbs Used with Adjectives or Other Adverbs

Adverbs that tell *to what extent* can also modify adjectives and other adverbs.

Frequently Used Adverbs

very	not	somewhat	more
just	nearly	so	most

Notice how the adverbs in the following sentences make the adjective and adverb more understandable and more precise.

The tomb was dark.

The guide spoke softly.

The tomb was *nearly* dark.

The guide spoke *very* softly.

Notes

TIP

Adverbs are useful in persuasive writing. By using qualifiers such as *quite*, *nearly*, and *somewhat*, you can avoid overgeneralization.

Forming Adverbs

Many adverbs are made by adding *-ly* to an adjective.

careful + *-ly* = carefully slow + *-ly* = slowly

Sometimes the addition of *-ly* involves a spelling change in the adjective.

easy + *-ly* = easily (*y* changed to *i*)

full + *-ly* = fully (*ll* changed to *l*)

Some modifiers, like *soon* and *quite*, can be used only as adverbs.

The coffin was *soon* open. The mummy was *quite* well preserved.

Some other modifiers, like *late* or *first*, can be used either as adverbs or as adjectives.

The archaeologist arrived *late*. (adverb)

The *late* arrival delayed the discovery. (adjective)

Grave robbers had gotten there *first*. (adverb)

The *first* tomb was already open. (adjective)

Practice Your Skills

A. CONCEPT CHECK

Adverbs Write the adverbs from the following sentences. Beside each adverb write the word it modifies.

1. Egyptians were highly successful with mummification.
2. The bodies, or mummies, were very carefully preserved.
3. First, Egyptian embalmers painstakingly removed the brain.
4. The intestines were often stored in jars.
5. The heart and kidneys generally remained in the body.
6. The dead person still needed these organs in the afterlife.
7. Workers covered the body with a special substance, and then they dried the body very gradually.
8. Finally, the embalmers rubbed the body with oils and spices and intricately wrapped it in fine linen.
9. The extremely dry climate aided the process of preservation.
10. This very elaborate process sometimes took seventy days.



Adverbs as Modifiers (Modifying Adjectives and Other Adverbs) • Practice 1

Adverbs Modifying Adjectives An adverb modifying an adjective answers the question *To what extent?*

ADVERBS MODIFYING ADJECTIVES

<i>often</i> ready	<i>extremely</i> helpful
<i>too</i> late	<i>scarcely</i> prepared

Adverbs Modifying Other Adverbs An adverb modifying another adverb also answers the question *To what extent?*

ADVERBS MODIFYING ADVERBS

moves <i>quite</i> rapidly	visits <i>less</i> regularly
drives <i>more</i> carefully	speaks <i>very</i> slowly

Exercise 1 Recognizing the Words Adverbs Modify. On the blank at the right, write whether each underlined adverb modifies an adjective or another adverb.

EXAMPLE: Her coat appears rather short. adjective

- Bob should learn to speak more clearly. _____
- The senator was nearly late for his meeting. _____
- The patient's reactions seem rather slow. _____
- Her explanation is perfectly correct. _____
- The doctor arrived very quickly at the scene of the accident. _____
- Yes, I am somewhat embarrassed at his actions. _____
- My best friend is often absent from school. _____
- For my taste she plays too rapidly. _____
- We receive a new shipment almost weekly. _____
- At her audition Carrie seemed slightly upset. _____

Exercise 2 Adding Adverbs to Sentences. Fill in the blank in each sentence with an adverb that answers the question *To what extent?* Circle the word it modifies.

EXAMPLE: This road is often deserted at night.

- Richard seemed _____ disturbed at the news.
- _____ early in her speech, she began to stumble.
- My older sister swims _____ rapidly.
- The federal agents approached the building _____ cautiously.
- John played his clarinet _____ well.
- After the trip my grandmother looked _____ tired.
- Response time to fires is now _____ more rapid.
- Finally, the family is _____ ready to go.
- Tom plays shortstop _____ awkwardly.
- This salesman is _____ late for appointments.



Adverbs as Modifiers (Modifying Verbs)

• Practice 1

Adverbs Modifying Verbs Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. An adverb modifying a verb will answer one of four questions about the verb: *Where?* *When?* *In what manner?* or *To what extent?*

ADVERBS MODIFYING VERBS	
Where? jogged <i>here</i> signaled <i>left</i>	When? arrive <i>tonight</i> will speak <i>soon</i>
In What Manner? smiled <i>happily</i> <i>willingly</i> gave	To What Extent? <i>hardly</i> know explained <i>completely</i>

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Adverbs That Modify Verbs.** Underline the adverb in each sentence. In the space provided, indicate which question the adverb answers: *where?* *when?* *in what manner?* or *to what extent?*

EXAMPLE: They nearly had an accident. to what extent?

- I arrive early at school on Fridays. _____
- To reach the mall, turn left at the light. _____
- Everyone reacted sadly to the news. _____
- My brother will be going away to college. _____
- Do you thoroughly understand your task? _____
- Bring all the reference books here. _____
- I opened the door to the barn cautiously. _____
- Nina is barely acquainted with them. _____
- I will drive tomorrow at the festival. _____
- The train suddenly jolted to a halt. _____

Exercise 2 **Writing Original Sentences with Adverbs.** Use each adverb below in an original sentence. Make certain that the adverb modifies the verb.

EXAMPLE: nearly My grandmother nearly slipped on the ice.

- quickly _____
- here _____
- completely _____
- soon _____
- away _____
- easily _____
- tomorrow _____
- almost _____
- quietly _____
- hardly _____



Adverbs as Modifiers (Modifying Verbs)

• Practice 2

Exercise 1 Recognizing Adverbs That Modify Verbs. Find the adverb in each sentence and write it in the appropriate column.

EXAMPLE: The dog slept quietly by the stove.

Where? When? In What Manner? To What Extent?
 quietly

1. The bus traveled rapidly into the night.
2. Does he fully understand what is expected?
3. She immediately described the accident to a police officer.
4. The guests arrived late but found nobody at home.
5. Silently, the detective climbed the stairs to the attic.
6. Bud has almost finished his model.
7. Do you expect to move away from Albuquerque?
8. He is always creating problems.
9. The shopping center has nearly been completed.
10. My sister quickly cleaned the cage.

Where?	When?	In What Manner?	To What Extent?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Exercise 2 Using Adverbs in Sentences. Use each adverb below in a sentence, making certain that the adverb modifies a verb. Then circle the verb that the adverb modifies.

EXAMPLE: slowly The roast cooked slowly in the oven.

1. patiently _____
2. there _____
3. yesterday _____
4. completely _____
5. eagerly _____
6. nearly _____
7. courageously _____
8. closer _____
9. now _____
10. immediately _____