

ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS are words used to modify, or describe, other words in a sentence.

<p>ADJECTIVES modify nouns and pronouns.</p> <p>ADJECTIVES can answer these questions: What kind? The <i>German</i> car looks <i>expensive</i>. Which one? <i>This</i> sweater looks like <i>that</i> jacket. How many? <i>Many</i> teachers speak <i>two</i> languages.</p> <p>ADJECTIVES usually come before a noun being modified or after a linking verb.</p>	<p>ADVERBS modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.</p> <p>ADVERBS can tell readers: How? My husband drives <i>very smoothly</i>. How much? John <i>really</i> wants to pass this class. When? The concert is starting <i>now</i>. Where? I'll meet you <i>there</i>.</p> <p>ADVERBS are not always in the same place in a sentence.</p>
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Both ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS can be used to compare two or more things.

<p>Use the comparative form to compare two items:</p> <p>Elizabeth is <i>more industrious</i> than Mary. Daniel swims <i>faster</i> than Jonathan.</p>	<p>Use the superlative form for three or more:</p> <p>Hayes is <i>the meanest</i> dog in the neighborhood. Of our children, Michael sleeps <i>the most soundly</i>.</p>
<p>To form the comparative, add <i>-er</i> to short words; use <i>more</i> or <i>less</i> with longer words. Use one or the other—NEVER BOTH!</p>	<p>To form the superlative, add <i>-est</i> to short words; use <i>the most</i> or <i>the least</i> with longer words. Use one or the other—NEVER BOTH!</p>

Some adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms:

ADJECTIVE	Comparative	Superlative	ADVERB	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	the best	well	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst	badly	worse	The worst
far	farther	the farthest	far	farther	the farthest

Many adverbs, such as *cleanly*, *gently*, and *carefully*, are made by adding *-ly* to an adjective. The meaning of adjectives like *hardly* and *barely* changes when *-ly* is added.

A few short words can be used as either adjectives or adverbs: *fast*, *hard*, *last*.

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BMW's are *fast* cars. > Nicolas drives *fast*.

The lab quizzes are *hard*. > Pat always works *hard*.

This is the *last* one. > Mom spoke *last*.

LEARN MORE

Texts available to use in the SLC English Writing Lab:

Grassroots with Readings, Ninth Edition
Susan Fawcett
Chapter 21

Evergreen, A Guide to Writing with Readings,
Ninth Edition, Susan Fawcett
Chapter 34

The Bedford Handbook, Seventh Edition,
Diana Hacker
Chapter 26

Online:

[Grassroots Companion Site](#)

[Evergreen Companion Site](#)

[English Grammar Online ... the fun way to learn English](#)

[How to Use Adjectives and Adverbs](#)

[Using Adverbs and Adjectives](#)

[Quiz on Adjectives](#)

Don't forget: students can always ask tutors or their teachers for an explanation of anything that's not clear.

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PRACTICE

Underline or highlight all the adjectives you can find in this paragraph. There are sixteen adjectives in the seven sentences. Circle the word each adjective describes and know which question (What kind? Which one? How many?) it answers.

If you ever get the opportunity to go to the circus, you should not pass it up. There you will find entertainment provided by skilled acrobats, funny clowns, and trained animals. The performers wear bright costumes in the prettiest shades of pink and blue. Many of them wear sparkling jewelry that glitters from a distance. Even the animals have colorful accessories such as shiny head coverings and reflective collars. The clowns wear heavy makeup to disguise their true identity, but the many children in attendance find this hilarious. Visit the circus the next time it comes to town. You will be glad you did.

Underline or highlight of the adverbs in the following paragraph. There are sixteen adverbs in the seven sentences. One sentence doesn't contain any. Circle the word each adverb modifies and know which question (How? Where? When? How often?) it answers.

My roommate and I are exactly opposite, but we get along very well. He walks, talks, eats, and works slowly, but I do everything quickly. He gets up early, but I like to sleep late. He does his homework eagerly, but I do mine poorly. His room is very neat, but I leave my clothes and books everywhere. He

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always drives cautiously and says that I often drive too fast. In fact, he thinks that I am a reckless driver.

Writing that doesn't use enough adjectives and adverbs is often dull and doesn't give the reader a clear picture. Fill in adjectives and adverbs in the second paragraph below to make it more interesting.

<p>The babies were born at the hospital. The nurses wrapped them in blankets and they slept. When they were days old, they went home with their parents. Once home, they demanded attention. The babies cried and slept, and their parents worked to keep them happy.</p>	<p>The _____ babies were born at the _____ hospital. The _____ nurses wrapped them _____ in _____ blankets and they slept _____. When they were _____ days old, they went home with their _____ parents. Once home, they _____ demanded _____ attention.</p> <p>The _____ babies cried _____ and slept _____, and their _____ parents worked _____ to keep them happy.</p>
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Complete these sentences with comparative or superlative adjectives or adverbs.

Marya speaks the _____ of all the poets.	Sweet potatoes are the _____ food.	JoAnne works _____ than Beth.
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My mother is _____ than my father.	Joseph drives _____ than Dave.	Suzanne works the _____ of all.
Erica is the _____ student in our class.	Amber looks _____ than Liz.	Satu runs _____ than Thelma.