

Adjectives and Adverbs

- Adjectives describe or modify nouns or pronouns. They tell what kind, which one, or how many.
 1. A **black** cat slept on the piano.
(The adjective "black" describes the noun "cat.")
 2. We felt **cheerful**.
The adjective "cheerful" describes the pronoun "we.")
 3. **Three** windows in the basement need to be replaced.
(The adjective "three" describes the noun "windows.")
- Adverbs describe or modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They tell how, in what manner, when, where, and to what extent.
 1. Joe dances **gracefully**.
(The adverb "gracefully" describes the verb "dances.")
 2. **Yesterday**, Robert left for a weekend of camping.
(The adverb "yesterday" describes the verb "left.")
 3. Bridget is **extremely** tall.
(The adverb "extremely" describes the verb "tall.")
 4. He travels **very rapidly** on that skateboard.
(The adverb "very" describes the adverb "rapidly," which describes the verb "travels.")

Many adjectives can be changed into adverbs by adding an *-ly* ending.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Adverb</u>
awful	awfully
bad	badly
poor	poorly
quick	quickly
quiet	quietly
real	really
sure	surely

Exercise: Circle the correct adjective or adverb in parentheses.

1. Have you ever seen (real, really) emeralds?
2. Try to do your work in the library (quiet, quietly).
3. We will (glad, gladly) take you on a tour of the nature preserve.
4. Lee, a (high, highly) skilled electrician, rewired his entire house last year.
5. She made a (quick, quickly) stop at the photocopy center.
6. It was a funny joke, but the comedian told it (bad, badly).
7. The painting is not (actual, actually) a Picasso; in fact, it is a (real, really) bad imitation.

Comparatives and Superlatives

- The **comparative** of an adjective or adverb compares **two** persons or things.
 1. Ben is **more creative** than Robert.
 2. Elizabeth runs **faster** than the coach.
- The **superlative** of an adjective or adverb compares **three or more** persons or things.
 1. Matthew is the **tallest** of the three brothers.
 2. Emily is the **most intelligent** student in the class.
- Adjectives and adverbs of **one syllable** usually form the comparative by adding **-er**. They form the superlative by adding **-est**.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
fast	faster	fastest
smart	smarter	smartest
tall	taller	tallest

- Adjectives and adverbs of more than one syllable usually form the comparative by using **more**. They form the superlative by using **most**.

beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
brittle	more brittle	most brittle
serious	more serious	most serious

- Adjectives that end in **-y** change the **-y** to **-i** and add **-er** and **-est**.

happy	happier	happiest
lazy	lazier	laziest
sunny	sunnier	sunniest

Exercise: Write the comparative or the superlative of the words in parentheses.

1. The ocean is _____ (cold) than we thought it would be.
2. Which of these three highways is the _____ (short) route?
3. Jenny is the _____ (busy) person I know.
4. Is Pete _____ (tall) than Louie? Is Pete the _____ (tall) player on the team?
5. Mr. Wells is the _____ (wise) and _____ (experience) leader in the community.

Good and Well

- Be careful not to confuse the adjective "good" with the adverb "well."
1. Jessie is a **good** writer.
("Good is an adjective modifying "writer.")
 2. She writes **well**.
("Well" is an adverb modifying "writes.")

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst

<u>Adverb</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
well	better	best
badly	worse	worst

Exercise: Fill in either the adjective "good" or the adverb "well" in each blank.

1. Corned beef definitely goes _____ with cabbage.
2. How _____ do you understand Spanish.
3. He may not take phone messages very _____, but he is _____ when it comes to handling email.

4. Exercise is a _____ way to stay in shape; eating _____ will help maintain your health.
5. This is a _____ arrangement: I wash, you dry.

Exercise: Fill in the correct comparative or superlative.

1. Lucinda is a _____ (good) chemist than she is mathematician.
2. Bascomb was the _____ (bad) governor this state has ever had.
3. Of the two sisters, Leah is the _____ (good) driver.
4. Your cold seems _____ (bad) than it was yesterday.
5. The _____ (bad) part of going to a dentist is sitting in that chair.

Online Resources

[Purdue OWL: Adjective or Adverb](#)

[Purdue OWL: How to Use Adjectives and Adverbs](#)

[Adjectives and Adverbs](#)

[Grammarly Handbook | Adjectives and Adverbs Grammar Rules](#)

Adapted from *Evergreen, A Guide to Writing*, 6th ed., Fawcett/Sandburg