

ADVERBS

Adverbs are words that modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Most adverbs end with the suffix -ly: madly, beautifully, sadly, exactly, shortly, coldly, nicely, abruptly, decently, undeniably, miserably

Adverb as Verb Modifier

He **promptly** asks. (**promptly** modifies verb **asks**)

They **carefully** read every word. (**carefully** modifies verb **read**)

She drove **home**. (**home** modifies verb **drove**)

Adverb as Adjective Modifier

The **slowly** loading computer has internet connection problem. (**slowly** modifies adjective **loading**)

It's a **rather** sad situation. (**rather** modifies adjective **sad**)

They were **partially** full. (**partially** modifies adjective **full**)

Adverb as Adverb Modifier

The company is **quite** badly managed. (**quite** modifies adverb **badly**)

It's a **very** rapidly moving target. (**very** modifies adverb **rapidly**)

She ran **too** fast. (**too** modifies adverb **fast**)

Most adverbs are adjectives that have -ly added to the end. If the adjective ends with -y, change -y to -i and then add -ly.

Adjective	Adverb
quick	quickly
happy	happily
harmful	harmfully
speedy	speedily
intelligent	intelligently

There are a few adverbs that do not have the suffix -ly:

fast, home, hard, yesterday, tomorrow, tonight, early, late, never, well

You can identify adverbs by asking **how, where, when** of it:

Jim talks **fast**. (*how does Jim talk? fast = adverb*)

They all went **home**. (*where did they all go? home = adverb*)

The countdown will start **tomorrow**. (*when will the countdown start? tomorrow = adverb*)

Mary played her role **well**. (*how did Mary play her role? well = adverb*)

He fell **hard**. (*how did he fall? hard = adverb*)

I **hardly** hear you. (*how do I hear you? hardly = adverb but it has different meaning: barely*)

Some adverbs qualify the degree of intensity of an adjective or adverb:

somewhat, barely, moderately, slightly, rather, noticeably, quite, remarkably, utterly, very, extremely, too...

They advance **somewhat** rapidly. (*slightly rapidly*)

They advance **rather** rapidly. (*noticeably rapidly*)

They advance **quite** rapidly. (*remarkably rapidly*)

They advance **very** rapidly. (*extremely rapidly*)

They advance **too** rapidly. (*overly rapidly*)

Prepositional phrases that tell how, where, or when are also adverbial:

See you again **next year**. (*when*)

I'll keep the memory **in my heart**. (*where*)

She went to San Francisco **by train**. (*how*)

You expressed that so **beautifully**. (*how*)

The President felt **quite strongly** about that policy. (*how*)

He took it **too personally**. (*how*)

Dad will visit **later tonight**. (*when*)

He kicked the ball **to neighboring backyard**. (*where*)

Practice: Change the adjective in parentheses to an adverb then insert it in the sentence.

1. He ran to the market. (quick)
2. The crowd converged to the townhall. (noisy)
3. The dog followed the master. (quiet)
4. Jim plays tennis. (good)
5. Martha wrote the letter. (very neat)
6. The critic wrote the review. (harsh)
7. The prisoner stares toward the guards. (blank)
8. The plot of the movie followed the normal progression. (predictable)
9. The inspector conducts the search. (too careless)
10. He arrived at the wedding reception. (early)
11. You should arrange to pay this. (monthly)
12. He spelled that out. (incorrect)
13. She plays tennis. (skillful)
14. The convoy moved. (speedy)
15. They have not visit. (late)
16. I hear the thunder. (hard)
17. This should be planned out. (intelligent)
18. He plans the wedding. (thoughtful)

Answers: Adverb often can be in front or behind the verb it modifies.

1. He ran **quickly** to the market <or> He **quickly** ran to the market.
2. The crowd converged **noisily** to the townhall > The crowd **noisily** converged to the townhall.
3. The dog followed the master **quietly** > The dog **quietly** followed the master.
4. Jim plays tennis **well**.
5. Martha wrote the letter **very neatly** > Martha **very neatly** wrote the letter.
6. The critic wrote the review **harshly** > The critic **harshly** wrote the review.
7. The prisoner stares **blankly** at the guards > The prisoner **blankly** stares at the guards.
8. The plot of the movie followed **predictably** the normal progression.
9. The inspector checks **too carelessly** > The inspector **too carelessly** checks.
10. He arrived **early** at the wedding > He arrived at the wedding **early**.
11. You should arrange to pay this **monthly**.
12. He **incorrectly** spelled that out > He spelled that out **incorrectly**.
13. She plays tennis **skillfully** > She **skillfully** plays tennis.
14. The convoy moved forward **speedily** > The convoy **speedily** moved forward.
15. They have not visit **lately**.
16. I **hardly** hear the thunder.
17. This should be planned out **intelligently** > This should be **intelligently** planned out.
18. He **thoughtfully** plans the wedding > He plans the wedding **thoughtfully**.