

What Is an Adverb?

1 Here's the Idea

► An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Teenagers **often** make a unique impression.
ADVERB VERB

They wear **very** creative clothing.
ADVERB ADJECTIVE

They **nearly always** have their own way of talking.
ADVERBS

Adverbs answer the questions *how*, *when*, *where*, or *to what extent*.

Adverbs

How?	successfully	quietly	terribly
When?	soon	later	now
Where?	inside	close	together
To what extent?	nearly	completely	quite

Adverbs can appear in several different positions.

Shari completed the exam **quickly**. (after verb)

Shari **quickly** completed the exam. (before verb)

Quickly, Shari completed the exam. (beginning of sentence)

Intensifiers are adverbs that modify adjectives or other adverbs. They are usually placed directly before the word they modify. Intensifiers usually answer the question *to what extent*.

How does Shari work **so** quickly?

Intensifiers

almost	extremely	quite	so	usually
especially	nearly	really	too	very

Forming Adverbs

Many adverbs are formed by adding the suffix *-ly* to adjectives. Sometimes a base word's spelling changes when *-ly* is added.

QUICK-FIX SPELLING MACHINE: ADVERBS

ADJECTIVE	RULE	ADVERB
strong	Add <i>-ly</i> .	strongly
true	Drop <i>-e</i> , add <i>-ly</i> .	truly
happy	Change <i>-y</i> to <i>-i</i> , add <i>-ly</i> .	happily

ADJ. & ADV.

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Adverbs can add information that makes verbs clearer and more specific. What would be lost if the adverbs in the model below were removed?

PROFESSIONAL MODEL

Yehudi Menuhin played the violin **spectacularly**. He began to study **quite early**, at the age of four. When he performed **onstage**, he **always** received thunderous applause. He **first** appeared in *Who's Who* at the age of 15 and was written about **frequently** in the world's press throughout his long career.

—C. Podojil

ANSWERS HOW

ANSWERS WHEN

ANSWERS WHERE

ANSWERS TO
WHAT EXTENT

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: What Is an Adverb?

Write each adverb and the word it modifies. Identify the modified word as a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. There may be more than one adverb in a sentence.

The Green Scene


1. Alison and James Henry climb trees professionally.
2. To some people, this seems quite extraordinary.
3. This is because Alison and James are unusually young for such a job.
4. They became professionals when they were only 17 and 16.
5. They are certified arborists, and they care for trees expertly.
6. They may ascend trees daily if their services are needed.
7. The two teenagers climb high in order to cut branches that might suddenly fall on a house or wire.
8. They work very carefully when they are up in the tops of trees.
9. They were once called in the middle of the night to remove a tree that had fallen dangerously close to a house.
10. So far, Alison and James are the only teenagers to have this particularly impressive professional title.

→ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 332.

B. WRITING: Adding Adverbs

Add adverbs to modify the numbered words in the paragraph below. Choose adverbs that will make the words clear and specific.

Julie (1) walked to the library. She had (2) thought she would (3) win the math contest. She was (4) good at math. But the new student from across town also (5) completed her math assignments. She would be a (6) tough competitor for Julie. I'll just have to (7) work, Julie thought as she (8) entered the library.

In your  **Working Portfolio**, find the description you wrote for the **Write Away** on page 124. Use verbs and adverbs to expand your description.

Making Comparisons

1 Here's the Idea

Special forms of modifiers are used to make comparisons.

- Use the **comparative form of an adjective or adverb** when you compare a person or thing with one other person or thing.

Earth is **larger** than Venus.

Earth orbits the sun **more slowly** than Venus.

- Use the **superlative form of an adjective or adverb** when you compare someone or something with more than one other person or thing.

Which of the four inner planets is the **hottest**?

Which of the five outer planets rotates **most quickly**?

Regular Forms of Comparisons

For most one-syllable modifiers, add **-er** to form the comparative and **-est** to form the superlative.

One-Syllable Modifiers

	Base Form	Comparative	Superlative
Adjective	light slow	lighter slower	lightest slowest
Adverb	close soon	closer sooner	closest soonest

You can also add **-er** and **-est** to some two-syllable adjectives. With other two-syllable adjectives, and with all two-syllable adverbs, use the words *more* and *most*.

Two-Syllable Modifiers

	Base Form	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives	windy massive	windier more massive	windiest most massive
Adverbs	brightly quickly	more brightly more quickly	most brightly most quickly

With adjectives and adverbs having three or more syllables, use *more* and *most*.

Modifiers with More than Two Syllables

	Base Form	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives	successful mysterious	more successful more mysterious	most successful most mysterious
Adverbs	awkwardly eloquently	more awkwardly more eloquently	most awkwardly most eloquently



Use only one sign of comparison at a time. Don't use *more* and *-er* together or *most* and *-est* together.

INCORRECT: **Earth is the most greenest planet.**

CORRECT: **Earth is the greenest planet.**

Irregular Forms of Comparisons

The comparatives and superlatives of some adjectives and adverbs are formed in irregular ways.

Irregular Modifiers

	Base Form	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives	good bad	better worse	best worst
Adverbs	much little well	more less better	most least best

2 Why It Matters in Writing

When you write about science or technology, you can often explain your subject more clearly by comparing it to another.

PROFESSIONAL MODEL

Venus is **hotter** than Earth—about 800 degrees **hotter**. The atmosphere on Venus is **more unfriendly** too. It rains sulfuric acid, and the pressure is 90 times **greater** than that on Earth.

—T. Bagwell

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Making Comparisons

Choose the correct comparative or superlative form to complete each sentence.

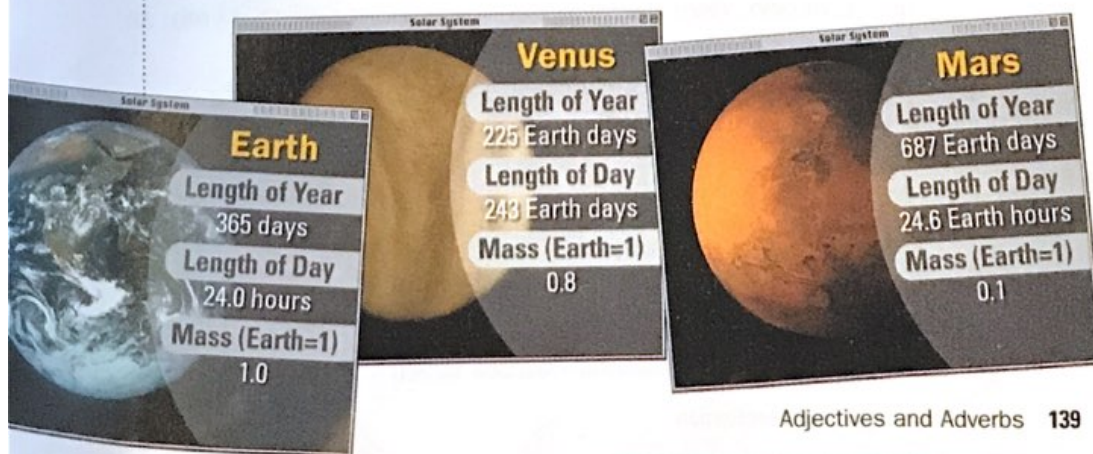
Nine of a Kind

1. Which do you think is the (fascinatingest/most fascinating) planet in the solar system?
 2. Earth is (wettest/wetter) than Mars.
 3. Venus orbits the sun (quicker/more quickly) than it rotates on its axis.
 4. This means that a day on Venus is (longer/longest) than its year.
 5. Mars has a volcano that is (taller/more taller) than any one on Earth.
 6. It also has a canyon that is (longer/longest) than the Grand Canyon.
 7. Jupiter is the (most massive/more massive) planet in the system.
 8. If Jupiter were many times (larger/more large) than it is, it might have ignited to become a star.
 9. Neptune is the planet on which winds blow the (most rapidly/more rapidly).
 10. If Neptune had a solid surface, you'd never be able to stand upright on this (windiest/windier) of planets.
- For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 333.



B. WRITING: Creating Comparisons

Write five sentences in which you compare and contrast the planets shown, using comparative and superlative forms. Use the information given.



Adjective or Adverb?

1 Here's the Idea

Some pairs of adjectives and adverbs are often a source of confusion and mistakes in speaking and writing.

Good or Well *Good* is always an adjective; it modifies a noun or pronoun. *Well* is usually an adverb, modifying a verb, an adverb, or an adjective. *Well* is an adjective when it refers to health.

Poetry is a **good** way to express your individuality.
ADJECTIVE ↑ MODIFIES ↑ NOUN

Good poems can communicate ideas **well**.
VERB ↑ MODIFIES ↑ ADVERB

You can write poems even when you don't feel **well**.
PRONOUN ↑ MODIFIES ↑ ADJECTIVE

Real or Really *Real* is always an adjective; it modifies a noun or pronoun. *Really* is always an adverb; it modifies a verb, an adverb, or an adjective.

Reciting poetry is a **real** talent.
ADJECTIVE ↑ MODIFIES ↑ NOUN

If you **really** work at it, you can become good at it.
ADVERB ↑ MODIFIES ↑ VERB

Bad or Badly *Bad* is always an adjective; it modifies a noun or pronoun. *Badly* is always an adverb; it modifies a verb, an adverb, or an adjective.

That wasn't a **bad** poem, but you read it **badly**.
ADJECTIVE ↑ MODIFIES ↑ NOUN VERB ↑ MODIFIES ↑ ADVERB

Oh, I feel **bad** about that.
PRONOUN ↑ MODIFIES ↑ ADJECTIVE

2 Why It Matters in Writing

The pairs of words you have just studied are often misused in everyday speech. When you find yourself using one of these words in writing, stop and make sure you have the correct one.

STUDENT MODEL

My sister wants to be in the *Guinness Book of Records*.
She wants this ^{really} ~~real~~ ^{badly} ~~bad~~. She swims ^{well} ~~good~~, so she thinks she
will try to tread water longer than anyone else. I will feel
^{bad} ~~badly~~ for her if she fails but ^{good} ~~well~~ if she succeeds.

3 Practice and Apply

CONCEPT CHECK: Adjective or Adverb?

For each sentence, choose the correct modifier from those given in parentheses. Identify each word you choose as an adjective or an adverb.

Setting Real Records

1. If you are (good/well) at something, you can try to get into the *Guinness Book of Records*.
2. You may climb (bad/badly) or be a (real/really) poor runner.
3. But maybe you grow vegetables or flowers that are large and make a (real/really) statement.
4. Or maybe you blow big bubble-gum bubbles (good/well).
5. It helps if you attempt a (real/really) feat in public.
6. At least you must have (good/well) documentation by a person with (real/really) excellent community standing.
7. If it's just you and the huge bubble, that's (bad/badly).
8. The Guinness people will react (bad/badly) to your claim.
9. Those same folks also suggest that you take (good/well) safety precautions when you try to set a record.
10. After all, you don't want to get your award while lying in a hospital bed, feeling (bad/badly).

➔ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 334.

Avoiding Double Negatives

1 Here's the Idea

A **negative word** is a word that implies that something does not exist or happen. Some common negative words are listed below.

Common Negative Words

barely	never	none	nothing	can't
hardly	no	no one	nowhere	don't
neither	nobody	not	scarcely	hasn't

If two negative words are used where only one is needed, the result is a **double negative**. Avoid double negatives in your speaking and writing.

NONSTANDARD:

You don't have no business climbing Mt. Rushmore.

STANDARD:

You don't have any business climbing Mt. Rushmore.

You have no business climbing Mt. Rushmore.

2 Why It Matters in Writing

Many of the situations where success counts most—school, work, and interviews—require language that is free of double negatives. The following model is an example of what NOT to say in an interview.

PROFESSIONAL MODEL

For example, suppose you are being interviewed for a job as an airline pilot, and your prospective employer asks you if you have any experience, and you answer: "Well, I ain't never actually flied no actual airplanes or nothing, but I got several pilot-style hats and several friends who I like to talk about airplanes with."

—Dave Barry, "What Is and Ain't Grammatical"

3 Practice and Apply

A. CONCEPT CHECK: Avoiding Double Negatives

Write the word in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

Big Foot or Big Fake?

1. You (can/can't) scarcely imagine how many people believe in one-of-a-kind monsters.
2. You (can't/can) barely read a newspaper or a magazine without seeing a reference to one.
3. The "abominable snowman" (is/isn't) nothing like the kind you build.
4. No one has (never/ever) been able to prove it exists.
5. Researchers investigating the Loch Ness Monster (haven't/have) had nothing to show for their efforts.
6. People trying to prove the existence of Bigfoot haven't come up with (nothing/anything) either.
7. Evidence of such creatures (is/isn't) nowhere to be found.
8. Nobody has ever taken a photograph of one (either/neither).
9. No one (has/hasn't) ever gotten one on videotape.
10. Some people believe in such creatures, but I don't think there are (none/any).

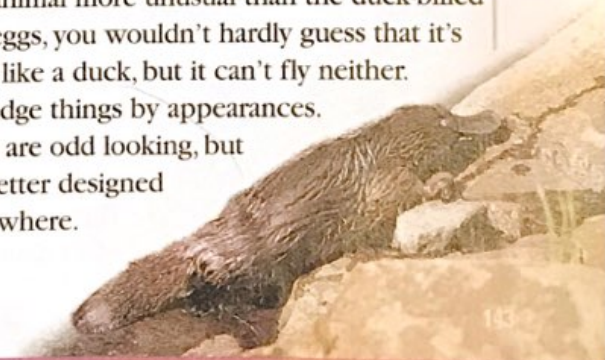
→ For a SELF-CHECK and more practice, see the EXERCISE BANK, p. 334.

B. PROOFREADING: Eliminating Double Negatives

In the draft below, find and correct five double negatives. There is more than one way to correct each double negative.

STUDENT MODEL

You won't find no animal more unusual than the duck-billed platypus. Since it lays eggs, you wouldn't hardly guess that it's a mammal. It has a bill like a duck, but it can't fly neither. You shouldn't never judge things by appearances. Duck-billed platypuses are odd looking, but there isn't an animal better designed for its environment nowhere.



Grammar in Literature

Using Adjectives and Adverbs to Describe

When you write a character description, using adjectives and adverbs allows you to make a person come alive. Adjectives and adverbs help writers clearly express what they see, think, and feel. As you read the following passage from a science-fiction story, notice how writer Daniel Keyes uses adjectives and adverbs to describe an adult student's impressions of his special-education teacher. The student, Charlie, has had brain surgery that has made him more intelligent, and he feels as if he is seeing his teacher clearly for the first time.

CHAPTER 5

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

April 28 I don't understand why I never noticed how beautiful Miss Kinnian really is. She has brown eyes and feathery brown hair that comes to the top of her neck. She's only thirty-four! I think from the beginning I had the feeling that she was an unreachable genius—and very, very old. Now, every time I see her she grows younger and more lovely.

We had dinner and a long talk. When she said that I was coming along so fast that soon I'd be leaving her behind, I laughed.



Max Seabaugh/MAX

"It's true, Charlie. You're already a better reader than I am. You can read a whole page at a glance while I can take in only a few lines at a time. And you remember every single thing you read. I'm lucky if I can recall the main thoughts and the general meaning."

"I don't feel intelligent. There are so many things I don't understand."

ADJECTIVES

describe Miss Kinnian's appearance.

ADVERBS

add to the description of changes in Charlie by telling how and when actions occur.

ADJECTIVES

compare the skills of Miss Kinnian and Charlie.

Practice and Apply



A. USING ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

The following passage is a possible journal entry describing the dinner from Miss Kinnian's point of view. Follow the directions below to make the entry clearer. Add adjectives and adverbs to the numbered sentences.



April 28 Today, Charlie was not in class. (1) His absence worried me, so I decided to call him. I asked him to meet me at City Restaurant. (2) We had a dinner and a talk. (3) The surgery has changed him. (4) Just weeks ago, he could not carry on a conversation. (5) Now, he expresses himself. He can read a book in just minutes. I believe that he will be smarter than his doctors.

1. Add an adverb that emphasizes that Miss Kinnian was worried.
2. Add adjectives to describe what kind of dinner and what kind of talk you think they had.
3. Add an adverb to emphasize that Charlie has changed.
4. Use your imagination and add adjectives to describe how many weeks ago and what kind of conversation he used to make.
5. Add an adverb to describe how Charlie expresses his ideas now, and when he may become smarter than his doctors.

ADJ. & ADV.

B. WRITING: Description

Charlie uses a variety of adjectives and adverbs to describe his favorite teacher. Write a paragraph in which you use adjectives and adverbs to describe someone whom you admire. Save your paragraph in your

Working Portfolio.



Mixed Review

A. Using Adjectives Write each adjective in the sentences below and give the word it modifies. Do not include articles. Then add as many of the following descriptions as apply (may be none).

predicate adjective

proper adjective

demonstrative pronoun

indefinite pronoun

noun used as adjective

comparative form of adjective

superlative form of adjective

possessive pronoun

1. The animal world is full of unique characteristics.
2. Most insects are small, and many mammals are large.
3. But a kind of mammal is actually a smaller creature than a bumblebee.
4. This creature—the Kitti's hog-nosed bat—is the tiniest mammal.
5. Actually, the honeybee makes the food with the most impressive additive.
6. That's right, honey tastes fresher after time on the shelf than some foods because of its natural preservatives.
7. Despite the purple dinosaur you see on television, the African blesbok is unique.
8. His coat is purple, and he is the only land animal to have that color.
9. When you think of sharks, you probably see them in their wide oceans and their salty seas.
10. But the bull shark also likes fresh water, such as Mississippi River water.

B. Using Adverbs Write each adverb in the paragraph below, tell what word it modifies, and tell whether the word it modifies is a verb, an adverb, or an adjective.

LITERARY MODEL

When I had waited a long time, very patiently, without hearing him lie down, I resolved to open a little—a very, very little crevice in the lantern. So I opened it—you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily—until, at length, a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye.

—Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart"

Mastery Test: What Did You Learn?

For each numbered item, choose the letter of the term that identifies it.

Satchel Paige, who played in both the Negro Leagues and the major leagues, was one of the greatest players in American baseball. He is the only person who played professionally into his sixties. He is also the oldest player ever to play in the All-Star Game. As if that were not enough, Paige pitched more games than anyone in the history of baseball—about 2,500!

Satchel Paige pitched more distinctively than other pitchers. Batters gritted their teeth when they were up against "Satch." His "bee ball" was extremely fast, and batters swore they could hear it buzz. His "pea ball" appeared small as it zipped over the plate. Some people remember Paige best for his words of wisdom. He said, "If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts."

1. A. pronoun used as adjective
B. comparative adjective
C. proper adjective
D. predicate adjective
2. A. adverb modifying *person*
B. adverb modifying *is*
C. adverb modifying *played*
D. intensifier
3. A. comparative adjective
B. superlative adjective
C. comparative adverb
D. superlative adverb
4. A. adjective modifying *pitched*
B. adjective modifying *games*
C. adjective modifying *anyone*
D. adjective modifying *Paige*
5. A. superlative adjective
B. comparative adverb
C. comparative adjective
D. superlative adverb
6. A. demonstrative pronoun
B. noun used as adjective
C. possessive pronoun
D. proper adjective
7. A. adverb telling to what extent
B. adverb telling how
C. adverb telling where
D. adverb telling when
8. A. predicate adjective
B. comparative adjective
C. superlative adjective
D. pronoun used as adjective
9. A. comparative adverb
B. superlative adjective
C. superlative adverb
D. comparative adjective
10. A. adverb telling when
B. adverb telling where
C. adverb telling how
D. adverb telling to what extent

Student Help Desk

Adjectives and Adverbs at a Glance

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns.

The **Jamaican** runner finished first. She was **fast**!

Adverbs modify verbs, adverbs, and adjectives.

The **usually** quiet student spoke **very emphatically**.



Modifiers in Comparisons

Bigger
and
Better

	Comparative	Superlative
fast	faster	fastest
speedy	speedier	speediest
unusual	more unusual	most unusual
original	more original	most original
quickly	more quickly	most quickly
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst

Avoiding Double Forms

Double Trouble

Double Negative

Fix

we can't never

we can never
we can't

we don't hardly

we hardly
we don't

Double Comparison

Fix

more better

better

most luckiest

luckiest

Potholes

Modifier Problems

Good and Well

I have a **good** reason.

ADJECTIVE

Do you feel **good** about that?

PREDICATE
ADJECTIVE

I can sing **well**.

ADVERB

You don't look **well**.

PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

Real and Really

She's a **real** gem.

ADJECTIVE

She's **really** friendly.

ADVERB

Bad and Badly

That's not a **bad** idea.

ADJECTIVE

She feels **bad** about it.

PREDICATE
ADJECTIVE

He drives **badly**.

ADVERB

ADJ. & ADV.

The Bottom Line

Checklist for Adjectives and Adverbs

Have I . . .

- ___ used adjectives to add detail to my nouns?
- ___ capitalized proper adjectives?
- ___ used adverbs to describe actions clearly?
- ___ used the correct comparative or superlative form?
- ___ avoided using adjectives as adverbs?
- ___ avoided double negatives?