

Adverbs

An **adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. An adverb tells *how, when, where, or to what extent*.

Examples:

Our skates moved *effortlessly*. (tells how)

The ice is glistening *now*. (tells when)

The canals are frozen *there*. (tells where)

The air was *very* dry. (tells to what extent)



Underline the adverb or adverbs in each sentence. Then write the word that each adverb modifies and write *verb, adjective, or adverb* to identify the modified word.

- High on the mesas of Arizona live the Hopi Indians. _____

- Despite the harshness of their environment, the Hopis have clung very tenaciously to their way of life. _____

- The Hopi religion kept them free from outside influences and helped them maintain their extremely interesting culture. _____

- Tourists frequently visit Hopi villages to learn about sacred Hopi ceremonies. _____

- The Snake Dance is the most famous of these ceremonies. _____

- Hopi rituals are based entirely on the need for water to maintain life. _____

- Never are visitors allowed to participate in these rituals. _____

- The Hopi use brightly colored dolls called “kachinas” to represent the spirit world. _____

- Kachina dolls are carved from cottonwood root that has been thoroughly dried. _____

- Carving these kachina dolls is an unusually painstaking process. _____

- Now some of these kachina dolls are made for sale. _____



Write an adverb that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the adverb shown.

- rapidly _____
- strongly _____
- noisily _____
- roughly _____



Comparisons with Adverbs

Adverbs have three forms of comparison: **positive**, **comparative**, and **superlative**. The **positive** form of an adverb is used when no comparison is being made.

Example:

The sun will set *early*. Ice formed *quickly* on the windshield.

The **comparative** form is used to compare two actions. Form the comparative of most short adverbs by adding *er* to the positive form. With other adverbs, use *more* or *less*.

Examples:

Sunset comes *earlier* in the winter than in the summer.

Weather changes *more quickly* in winter than in fall.

The **superlative** form is used to compare three or more actions. Form the superlative of most short adverbs by adding *est* to the positive form. With other adverbs, use *most* or *least*.

Examples:

Sunset comes *earliest* of all at the winter solstice.

Weather changes *most quickly* with an east wind.

Some adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms. Use *farther* and *farthest* to compare distances. Use *further* and *furthest* to compare quantity, time, or degree.

Examples:

far, farther, farthest far, further, furthest



Write *farther*, *farthest*, *further*, or *furthest* to complete each sentence.

1. Sea tortoises can swim _____ than seals can.
2. The oceanographic institute will provide _____ information on the sea tortoise.
3. The gray whale can swim _____ of all without growing tired.
4. Scientists think the albatross can fly _____ than any other bird without roosting.
5. The _____ one reads about these animals, the grander their stamina and resourcefulness appear.



Write the correct form of the adverb in parentheses.

6. Two eagles are soaring _____ above the cliffs.
(high)
7. Of all North American birds, the eagle flies _____.
(high)
8. In the jungle an animal must move _____ to remain safe.
(stealthily)
9. The animal that moves _____ of all will be safe and well fed.
(stealthily)
10. A mongoose can move _____ than a snake.
(stealthily)
11. The cheetah runs _____ of all jungle animals.
(swiftly)



Negatives

Negatives are words that mean "no." The words *no, not, never, nowhere, nothing, nobody, no one, neither, scarcely, and barely* are common negatives. Use only one negative in a sentence.

Examples:

CORRECT *No one* should ever drive on ice.

INCORRECT *No one* should *never* drive on ice.



Underline the negative word in each sentence.

1. Hugh barely made it to practice on time.
2. The coach never allowed you to play if you were late more than twice.
3. Hugh couldn't afford to miss another game.
4. It wasn't easy making the team in the first place.
5. That day, Hugh could scarcely clear the hurdles.
6. Hugh did not want the coach to remember his poor performance at the tryouts.



Underline the word in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence. Avoid double negatives.

7. Haven't you (never, ever) eaten fish?
8. There isn't (no, any) tastier food, I think.
9. You won't (never, ever) find shellfish along the surface of the sea.
10. There is (no, any) way they can move there.
11. Shellfish haven't (any, no) means of movement except along the sea bottom.
12. Some people won't (ever, never) eat lobster or crab meat.
13. Marvin said that he had (ever, never) eaten mackerel before.
14. He says nothing (ever, never) tasted so good.
15. When you live near the sea, buying fresh fish is (no, any) problem at all.
16. There isn't (anywhere, nowhere) better for someone who likes fish.



Adverb or Adjective?

Some words can be used as either adverbs or adjectives.
Words that modify nouns or pronouns can only be adjectives (real, good, bad, sure).

Examples:

I am *sure* we are on time. This food is not *good*. The lemon is *bad*.

Some words can only be adverbs (really, badly, surely, almost).

Examples:

The food is *really* good. I felt *badly* last night. It is *almost* time to go to bed.



Write *adverb* or *adjective* to identify the underlined word in each sentence.

1. Nicole arrived at the parade grounds early. _____
2. As usual, her dog was behaving badly. _____
3. Nicole hoped obedience school would make a good dog out of Bandit. _____
4. She and Bandit practiced slow figure eights around the field. _____
5. As Bandit pulled at his leash, Nicole began to feel most annoyed. _____
6. They were sure to fail miserably at this exercise. _____
7. Bandit really was a mischievous dog. _____
8. Getting Bandit to behave will be a real achievement. _____
9. Hyenas have really strong jaws. _____
10. In hyena society, the top-ranking female almost always leads the pack. _____



Underline the correct word in parentheses.

11. (Most, Almost) any dog can enter obedience school.
12. Even a dog that behaves (badly, bad) can be trained.
13. Dogs older than six months can do (good, well) in obedience training.
14. A young puppy is (really, real) not able to remember commands.
15. A (good, well) command is one that is given clearly and firmly.



Write a short paragraph describing something your pet or a friend's pet has done. Use at last four of the adverbs and adjectives on this page correctly.

