The Adverb

Adverbs

1. An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb makes the meaning of the verb, adjective, or adverb more definite by telling where, when, how, or to what extent.

Adverbs Modifying Verbs

Adverbs modify verbs and also may introduce questions. Adverbs may come before or after the verbs they modify. Adverbs may also come between verbs in a verb phrase.

**EXAMPLES**

- Write his name here. [Here tells where to write his name.]
- She will **politely** ask. [Politely tells how she will ask.]
- **When** did Adam call you? [When introduces a question.]

**NOTE** Some words that can be used as nouns can also be used as adverbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>ADVERB</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>Today is my birthday.</td>
<td>Today</td>
<td>Today I am celebrating my birthday.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Exercise A** Underline the adverb in each of the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow from the adverb to the word or words it modifies.

**Example 1.** When did you buy the new telephone? [**When** modifies *did buy* by telling *when*.]

1. Please write your new phone number there. [Which word tells where about the verb?]
2. Loudly, the telephone in Becca’s room rang.
3. Where did she earn the money for her own phone?
4. Becca mows lawns weekly for extra money.
5. She had carefully saved money for the phone.

Adverbs Modifying Adjectives

Adverbs also modify adjectives.

**EXAMPLES**

- Extremely spicy tacos were served. [**Extremely** modifies *spicy*, telling to what extent.]
- That story was **creatively** brilliant! [**Creatively** modifies *brilliant*, telling how.]

*Developmental Language Skills*
Exercise B Underline the adverb in each of the sentences below. Then, draw an arrow from the adverb to the adjective it modifies.

Example 1. The pink blossoms on this rose bush are fully open. [Fully modifies open.]

6. Whose incredibly delicious casserole is this? [Which word modifies an adjective?]

7. Rather large trees surround the car lot.

8. After a long afternoon, I can say that my chores are nearly complete.

9. An especially valuable player receives the MVP award.

10. Please give a snack to the children, who are slightly hungry.

Adverbs Modifying Other Adverbs
Adverbs also modify other adverbs.

Examples
Heather plays volleyball really well. [Really modifies well, telling to what extent.]

She almost never misses a serve. [Almost modifies never, telling to what extent.]

Exercise C Underline the adverb that modifies another adverb in each of the sentences below. Then, draw an arrow from the adverb to the adverb it modifies. Do not underline any adverbs that modify verbs or adjectives.

Example 1. Janis swims in the lake only rarely. [Only modifies rarely and tells to what extent.]

11. Why is he speaking very quietly? [Which word modifies an adverb?]

12. Somewhat excitedly, the child accepted the gift.

13. Both students completed the test equally quickly.

14. A fire broke out, but firefighters arrived quite soon.

15. You interpreted the poem extremely creatively.