INDEPENDENT STUDY: Adverbs and Adjectives

**Directions:** Read the resources and locate the answers to these questions.

1. What is an adjective? ________________________________________________________________

2. What does an adjective do? ___________________________________________________________

3. What is an adverb? __________________________________________________________________

4. What does an adverb do? _______________________________________________________________

5. What does the word “modify” mean? ___________________________________________________

6. How can we recognize adverbs? _______________________________________________________

6. What do we usually use to modify a subject? _____________________________________________

7. What do we usually use to modify a predicate? ___________________________________________

8. Correctly underline the adverb in this sentence.

9. What are two things we should be careful about when using adverbs? __________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Write three sentences using an adjective. Underline the adjective.

10._________________________________________________________________________________

11._________________________________________________________________________________

12._________________________________________________________________________________

Write three sentences using an adverb. Underline the adverb.

10._________________________________________________________________________________

11._________________________________________________________________________________

12._________________________________________________________________________________
Does It Need An Adverb or an Adjective?
Choose the correct item from the choices in the parentheses:

1. He (correct, correctly) defined the terms. The answer sounded (correctly, correct).
2. She (quickly, quick) adjusted the fees. She adapted (quick, quickly) to any situation.
3. He measured the floor (exact, exactly). They proved to be (perfectly, perfect) (exact, exactly) measurements.
4. The stillness of the tomb was (awfully, awful). The tomb was (awfully, awful) still.
5. It was a (dangerously, dangerous) lake to swim in. The man was (dangerous, dangerously) drunk. The gas smelled (dangerously,dangerous).
6. She performed (magnificent, magnificently). It was a (magnificent, magnificently) beautiful performance.
7. Her voice sounds (beautifully, beautiful). She sang the song (exact, exactly) as it was written. We heard it (perfectly, perfect).
8. He was a very (sensibly, sensible) person. He acted very (sensible, sensibly).
9. Mike wrote too (slow, slowly) on the exam. He always writes (slow, slowly).
10. Talk (softly, soft) or don't talk at all. The music played (softly, soft).
11. Andrea knows the material very (good, well). She always treats us (good, well).
12. You must send payments (regular, regularly). We deal on a (strictly, strict) cash basis.
13. The mechanic's tools were (well, good). The foreman said that his work was (good, well) done.
14. She worked (careful, carefully) with the sick child. She was a very (careful, carefully) worker.
15. He did not pass the course as (easy, easily) as he thought he would.
16. I find this novel very (interesting, interestingly). It was (interesting, interestingly) written.
Adverbs
An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. In this case, "modifies" means "tells more about." An adverb tells more about how the verb is being done. Many adverbs end in "-ly."

Susan writes quickly and well.
Herbie will visit tomorrow.
Let's go home.
That was a very funny joke.

Adverbs can answer questions like these: "How?" (quickly and well) "When?" (tomorrow) "Where?" (home) "To what extent?" (very funny)

Now, what IS an adverb?
Basically, an adverb is a word which modifies a verb or adjective.
Adverbs usually come immediately before or after verbs or adjectives.

Many adverbs are adjectives with -ly at the end of the word.

Adverbs usually tell us how, when, where or to what extent something has happened. For example:
"Jason quickly ran to the shops."
The verb is ran.
Now, HOW did Jason run? He ran quickly. The word quickly tells us HOW Jason ran. Quickly modifies the verb. In this sentence, then, quickly is the adverb.
Adjectives Versus Adverbs

Adjectives and adverbs are describing words; the former describes a noun or pronoun; the latter, a verb, adjective, or other adverb. Here, you learn how to use these words with skill and confidence so you'll never again face the dreaded bad/well dilemma.

They Walk Alike, They Talk Alike: You Could Lose Your Mind

Both adjectives and adverbs are modifiers—words that describe other words. For example:

- **Adjective**: The quick fox jumped.
- **Adverb**: The fox jumped quickly.

Ah ha! you say. Adverbs end in -ly; adjectives don't, so that's how I can tell these suckers apart. Not so fast, kemosabe. Some adverbs end in -ly, but not all. Further, some adjectives also end in -ly, such as lovely and friendly. As a result, the -ly test doesn't cut the mustard. Instead, the key to telling the difference between adjectives and adverbs is understanding how they work:

- **Adjectives** describe a noun or pronoun.
- **Adverbs** describe a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

As you learned in Parts of Speech, the only dependable way to tell whether you should use an adjective or an adverb is to see how the word functions in the sentence. If a noun or pronoun is being described, use an adjective. If a verb, adjective, or other adverb is being described, use an adverb. Here's an example to refresh your memory:

- He is a skillful driver.
- (The adjective skillful describes the noun driver.)
- The cabby drove skillfully.
- (The adverb skillfully describes the verb drove.)
Adverbs modify verbs. They tell you *How* something is done.  
**Example:** *How does he/she sing?* - *She sings beautifully.*

**Rule:** Adverbs are often formed by adding *-ly* to an adjective  
**Example:** *beautiful - beautifully, careful - carefully*

*Be Careful!*
- Some adjectives don't change in the adverb form. The most important of these are: *fast - fast, hard - hard*
- Good is probably the most important exception. The adverb form of 'good' is 'well'. Unfortunately, this is a common mistake that many Americans make!

*NOT!!:* He plays tennis good.

**Rule:** Adverbs can also modify an adjective. In this case, the adverb is placed before the adjective.  
**Example:** *She is extremely happy. They are absolutely sure.*

*Be Careful!*
- Do not use 'very' with adjectives that express an increased quality of a basic adjective  
  **Example:** *good - fantastic*

*NOT!!:* She is a very beautiful woman.

**Rule:** Adverbs of frequency (always, never, sometimes, often, etc.) usually come before the main verb  
**Example:** *He is often late for class. Do you always eat in a restaurant? They don't usually travel on Fridays.*

*Be Careful!*
- Adverbs of frequency expressing infrequency are not usually used in the negative or question form. *NOT!!:* Does she rarely eat fish? They don't seldom go to the cinema.
- Adverbs of frequency are often placed at the beginning of a sentence.  
  **Example:** *Sometimes, he likes to go to museums.*
- Adverbs of frequency follow - come after - the verb 'to be'.  
  **Example:** *He is sometimes late for work*
Adjectives Modify Nouns

- Adjectives are placed directly before a noun:
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *Tom is an excellent singer.*
  *I bought a comfortable chair.*
  *She's thinking about buying a new house.*

- Adjectives are also used in simple sentences with the verb 'to be'. In this case, the adjective describes the subject of the sentence:
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *Jack is happy.*
  *Peter was very tired.*
  *Mary'll be excited when you tell her.*

- Adjectives are used with sense verbs or verbs or appearance (feel, taste, smell, sound, appear and seem) to modify the noun which comes before the verb:
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *The fish tasted awful.*
  *Did you see Peter? He seemed very upset.*
  *I'm afraid the meat smelled rotten.*

Adverbs

Adverbs Modify Verbs, Adjectives and Other Adverbs

- Adverbs are easily recognized because the end in '-ly' (with a few exceptions!):
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *Adjective careful Adverb carefully*
  *Adjective quick Adverb quickly*

- Adverbs are often used at the end of a sentence to modify the verb:
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *Jack drove carelessly.*
  *Tom played the match effortlessly.*
  *Jason complained about his classes constantly.*

- Adverbs are used to modify **adjectives**:
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *They seemed extremely satisfied.*
  *She paid increasingly high prices.*
  *I was suddenly surprised by Alice.*

- Adverbs are also used to modify **other adverbs**:
  
  **Examples:**
  
  *The people in the line moved incredibly quickly.*
  *She wrote the report unusually neatly.*