

# Adverbs: Versus Adjectives

## Adjectives

**FORM:** Adjectives are words that describe nouns: *an old car, a tall man.*

- USES:**
- **Adjectives** come before nouns. They answer the question: What kind of...? *The young man likes to dance.* What kind of man is he? He is a **young** man.
  - **Adjectives** come after the stative verb “to be”: *This test is hard. That dog is cute.*
  - Adjectives are used with other stative verbs such as to **sound**, to **look**, to **feel**, to **taste** and to **smell**. *This cake tastes delicious. Sandra looks great today.*
  - Note: If the subject of the verb is singular, the stative verb takes an “s”. *This table feels cold.*
  - Note: Stative verbs are not usually used in the continuous form.

## Adverbs

- FORM:**
- **Adverbs** are generally formed by adding “-ly” to an adjective: *slowly, quickly, carefully*
  - If the adjective ends in “-y”, the “-y” becomes an “-i” when “-ly” is added to make an adverb: *steady = steadily*
  - If the adjective ends in “-able/ible”, the “-e” is dropped and “-y” is added to make an adverb: *comfortable = comfortably, impossible = impossibly*
  - If the adjective ends in “l”, don’t forget that you’ll have 2 “l’s” when you add “ly” as an adverb: *careful = carefully*
  - If the adjective ends in an “-e”, the “-e” stays before “-ly” is added to make an adverb: *immediate = immediately, strange = strangely*  
\*There are exceptions to this rule: *true = truly, gentle = gently*
  - Some adverbs have irregular forms: *good = well, fast = fast, little = little, hard = hard.*
  - Note: **Hardly** has a different meaning from **hard**.  
*He worked hard* = he worked many hours.  
*He hardly worked at all* = he didn’t work many hours.

- USES:**
- **Adverbs** can describe **verbs**. They answer the question “how”: *He runs quickly.*  
How does he run? He runs quickly.
  - **Adverbs** can describe adjectives: *Thomas is often late. Fred looks very tired.*
  - **Adverbs** can describe other adverbs: *Daniel spoke very quietly.*

Beginner 2 – Exercise 8 – Adverbs: Versus Adjectives

*Supply the ADVERB in the following sentences.*

1. Do your report \_\_\_\_\_ (quick); we need it by the end of the day.
2. Helen works very \_\_\_\_\_ (hard) in her job.
3. He always walks \_\_\_\_\_ (soft) when he comes home late.
4. She paints very \_\_\_\_\_ (beautiful).
5. He can lift a hundred pounds \_\_\_\_\_ (easy).
6. She writes her lessons very \_\_\_\_\_ (neat).
7. The soprano sings \_\_\_\_\_ (loud).
8. He goes there \_\_\_\_\_ (frequent).
9. Hold the baby very \_\_\_\_\_ (gentle).
10. He speaks very \_\_\_\_\_ (nice).
11. She does her homework \_\_\_\_\_ (quick).
12. She drives very \_\_\_\_\_ (slow).
13. Do you know her very \_\_\_\_\_ (good)?
14. Tom plays golf very \_\_\_\_\_ (poor).

*Fill in the blanks with GOOD or WELL.*

1. Jack is a very \_\_\_\_\_ friend.
2. Mary's mother isn't very \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Is he a \_\_\_\_\_ child?
4. Our boss who is British also speaks German very \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. He is a very \_\_\_\_\_ baseball player.
6. Henry can't play the piano very \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. That program wasn't very \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Our teacher is a \_\_\_\_\_ teacher.
9. Susan is not only a \_\_\_\_\_ swimmer, she also plays tennis very \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. How \_\_\_\_\_ do you speak English?

Beginner 2 – Exercise 8 – Adverbs: Versus Adjectives

*Choose the ADVERB or the ADJECTIVE.*

1. This exercise is \_\_\_\_\_ (easy/easily).
2. John plays the violin \_\_\_\_\_ (wonderful/wonderfully).
3. She walked \_\_\_\_\_ (slow/slowly).
4. When she found him, he was in a \_\_\_\_\_ (deep/deeply) sleep.
5. She sometimes talks to herself in a \_\_\_\_\_ (quiet/quietly) voice.

*Change these sentences. For example: she is a good singer = she sings well  
he visits frequently = he is a frequent visitor.*

1. She runs quickly. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Alex was a hard worker. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tom and Allan learn fast. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Judy sings wonderfully. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The pilot isn't flying very carefully. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Howard and I speak fluent Punjabi. \_\_\_\_\_
7. My grandfather was a brilliant writer. \_\_\_\_\_
8. George's brother cooked well. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Picasso was a wonderful painter. \_\_\_\_\_
10. John always walks slowly. \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in the blanks with the correct form, ADJECTIVE or ADVERB.*

1. He is a \_\_\_\_\_ (careless) driver.
2. William acted \_\_\_\_\_ (foolish).
3. Ellen is a very \_\_\_\_\_ (bright) girl.
4. He is a \_\_\_\_\_ (frequent) visitor in our school.

Beginner 2 – Exercise 8 – Adverbs: Versus Adjectives

5. Every night I sit \_\_\_\_\_ (comfortable) in front of the T.V.
6. The bus driver drives \_\_\_\_\_ (careful).
7. That is a \_\_\_\_\_ (foolish) thing to do.
8. This chair is quite \_\_\_\_\_ (comfortable).
9. We see him \_\_\_\_\_ (frequent) on the street.
10. Robert can ride a horse \_\_\_\_\_ (easy).
11. She is a \_\_\_\_\_ (wonderful) person.
12. They all work \_\_\_\_\_ (serious).
13. When she's in a hurry, she doesn't write \_\_\_\_\_ (clear).
14. My father is a \_\_\_\_\_ (careful) driver.
15. He does all his work \_\_\_\_\_ (quick).
16. A patient usually walks \_\_\_\_\_ (slow) after an operation.