

## Adjectives-Adverbs

I. Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns:

A big man.

The bird is high.

She is small.

There are three degrees of adjectives: positive, comparative, and superlative. A simple adjective, like the ones above, is positive; a comparative adjective compares two things; a superlative adjective compares three or more things.

<u>positive</u>	<u>comparative</u>	<u>superlative</u>
big	bigger	biggest
high	higher	highest
small	smaller	smallest
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
bad	worse	worst
good	better	best
far	farther, further	farthest, furthest
little	littler	littlest
few	fewer	fewest
	less	least
many, some, much	more	most

Sometimes a noun functions like an adjective (attributive noun):

He was a West Point graduate.

There is the Berkeley mayor.

We are Contra Costa students

A driver error caused the accident.

Brain damage resulted from the bullet.

Adjectives can consist of phrases (verbal phrases):

Realizing his danger, George roped himself to a rock.

Bent upon revenge, the pirate seized his sabre.

Adjectives can consist of clauses (relative clauses):

Goody Cloyse, who teaches catechism, consorts with him.

The fight, which took place last Monday, was a unanimous decision.

The chair that was empty belonged to Zoila.

II. Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs:

They played badly.

She is a very happy girl.

He speaks rather slowly.

Most adverbs are formed by adding -ly to an adjective:

calm (adj.) -- calmly (adv.)

sad (adj.) -- sadly (adv.)

Sudden (adj.) -- suddenly (adv.)

Like adjectives, adverbs have degrees:

positive

comparative

superlative

sincerely

more sincerely

most sincerely

fast

faster

fastest

Some important adverbs do not end in -ly: ahead, down, therefore, wall, here, then, too, very, seldom, now, there, not, however, etc.

Adverbs answer the questions: where? when? how? to what extent?

Where? It happened here.

When? It happened yesterday.

How? It happened slowly.

To what extent? He is extremely unpleasant.

Adverbs describe manner (disgustingly), degree (very), frequency (seldom), time (now), place (there), affirmation (certainly), negation (never), qualification (however), logical relationship (therefore).

Adjectives are used with verbs of being; adverbs are used with action verbs:

He is happy.

They run quickly.

They were calm.

He answered calmly.

Some verbs are both action verbs and verbs of being: taste,

look, sound, feel, smell:

He tastes the food slowly.

The cake tastes good.

He looked clearly at the document.

That girl looks good!

The cannon sounds loudly.

The record sounds bad.

I feel the cloth carefully.

I feel okay.

Some adverbs are identical in form with adjectives: right, better, late, much, close, loud, slow, fast, more, tight, early. So adverbs must sometimes be distinguished from adjectives by function:

You had better come (adv)

He was a much better player than Ralph.

Some adverbs have two forms: loud, loudly; quick, quickly; slow, slowly.

### Position:

When modifying adjective or adverbs, the adverb comes immediately before the word it modifies: very unhappy, unusually cordial, almost certainly.

When modifying verbs, the adverb can occur almost anywhere in the sentence.

Slowly she walked home.

She slowly walked home.

She walked slowly home.

She walked home slowly.

Sentence modifiers (adverbial conjunctions) occur anywhere in a sentence: however, moreover, therefore, consequently, then, etc.

## Adjectives and Adverbs

Choose the correct form from the pair in parenthesis, and cross out the incorrect one.

1. The child looked (carefully, careful) in all directions.
2. Don't feel (bad, badly) about failing the exam.
3. Susan plays the piano exceptionally (good, well).
4. The senator reacted very (bitter, bitterly) to the news.
5. Because he behaved (rude, rudely), he was never invited back.
6. His decision to return the lost wallet speaks (good, well) of him.
7. The coach believes Bob is the (faster, fastest) of the swimmers.
8. The birds' songs sound (beautiful, beautifully) in the morning.
9. Of the twelve students in the English class, Rhonda is the (better, best).
10. We are afraid to eat the fish because it smells so (strong, strongly).
11. He did (poor, poorly) on his final test.
12. That skit was (more clever, more cleverer) than the other one.
13. The news station wagon handles (easy, easily) even when full.
14. We feel (sure, surely) you have misjudged us.
15. John has a dog and a cat, but he likes the cat (best, better).
16. Your sins will (sure, surely) find you out.
17. The grizzly bear is the (more unpredictable, most unpredictable, unpredictablest) of the bear species.
18. A (really, real) effective stereo plays music (clear, clearly).
19. After the relay race, the losing team said that they felt (worse, worst, worser, badder) than they looked.
20. Of all the memorials in Washington, the Lincoln Memorial is the (most, more) visited.
21. The bread smelled (good, well) while it was baking in the oven.
22. Successful politicians usually remain (close, closely) to their constituents.
23. Farmers know that they must apply nutrients (continual, continually) to the soil, or it will become barren (quick, quickly).
24. Rain falls almost (constant, constantly) in the great forest.
25. The Western hemisphere has two of the world's (larger, largest), rivers, the Amazon and the Mississippi, of the two, the Amazon is (larger, largest), but the Mississippi is (most, more) important.
26. Highway travel in Alaska did not seem possible a century ago; however, now this (sparse, sparsely) settled state attracts thousands.
27. To build a house (solid, solidly) and (strong, strongly) requires constant attention to detail.
28. A (high, highly) productive honeybee hive is fascinating.
29. Socrates thought (deep, deeply) about the nature of man.
30. The colonel would become (real, really) angry when we spoke against Virginia.

31. It (sure, surely) cannot be denied that they were destroyed.
32. The man spoke so (rapid, rapidly) that no one understood him.
33. In the World Series, which team has won the (most, more) games?
34. In times of trouble, you must think (clear, clearly).
35. The manager, a man of idcision, never knew which of two possibilities was the (best, better).