



GRAMMAR

ADVERBS

- **What are adverbs?**

An adverb is a word that modifies verbs, adjectives and other adverbs.

- **Adverbs versus Adjectives**

The difference between an adverb and an adjective is the following:

- 1) An adjective modifies a noun: John is **tall**. (The adjective *tall* modifies the noun *John*)
- 2) An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb.
 - Verb: She sings **nicely**. (The adverb *nicely* modifies the verb *sing*)
 - Adjective: That idea is **simply** ridiculous. (The adverb *simply* modifies the adjective *ridiculous*)
 - Another adverb: She did it **really** well. (The adverb *really* modifies the adverb *well*)

Read the passage:

Mrs Smith **immediately** called the police when she saw the criminals assaulting the poor boy **aggressively**. It was the most horrible scene that she had **ever** witnessed in her life. She had **always** lived **peacefully** in that neighbourhood. No one had **ever** disturbed her quiet nights **there**.

The words *immediately*, *aggressively*, *ever*, *always*, *peacefully* and *there* are adverbs.

- **What are the different types of adverbs?**

Basically, most adverbs tell you how, in what way, when, where and to what extent something is done. In other words, they describe the manner, place or time of an action. Here are some examples:

- He speaks **quietly**. (Manner)
- I live **here**. (Place)
- We'll leave **tomorrow**. (Time)

- **Adverb rules**

1) Regular adverbs

Adverbs in English often end in -ly. These adverbs are formed by adding -ly to the end of an adjective -> **Adjective + -ly ending**

Adjective	Adverb
slow	slowly
beautiful	beautifully
careful	carefully
violent	violently

Spelling rules

- true → truly (the silent e is dropped and we add -ly)
- happy → happily (y becomes i and we add -ly)
- possible → possibly (e after a consonant is dropped and -ly is added.)
- full → fully (after //, y is added)
- fanatic → fanatically (we add -ly after adjectives ending in -ic add -ally. There is an exception: public → publicly)

2) Exceptions

However, this is not the only way to form an adverb. Many adverbs do not end in -ly. This is a list of adverbs that don't follow the rule:

Adjective	Adverb
fast	fast
hard	hard
late	late
early	early
daily	daily

Some adjectives change their form when they become adverbs:

adjective	adverb
good	well

- **Things to remember**

Many words are not adverbs although they end in -ly. Here are examples of adjectives that end in -ly, which are not adverbs.

- a kindly teacher
- a lonely girl
- an elderly person
- a friendly policeman

To decide whether a word is an adverb, ask questions with how, where and when.

- **How** does James speak Spanish? He speaks Spanish **fluently**.
- **Where** do the kids play soccer? They play soccer **here**.
- **When** did she write the email to her husband? She wrote the email **immediately**.

WORKSHEET

1) Find the adjective in the first sentence and fill in the blanks with the corresponding adverb.

1. James is careful. He drives
2. The girl is slow. She walks
3. Her English is perfect. She speaks English
4. Our teacher is angry. She shouts
5. My neighbor is a loud speaker. He speaks
6. He is a bad writer. He writes
7. Jane is a nice guitar player. He plays the guitar
8. He is a good painter. He paints
9. She is a quiet girl. She does her job
10. This exercise is easy. You can do it

2) Write down the correct form of the words in brackets (adjectives or adverbs).

1. Liza is (quick) She walks
2. Nancy is a (careless) girl. She drives her car
3. The man is (nice) He behaves
4. He was (bad) injured. He had a accident.
5. They can do the Maths problems (easy) They think Maths is an school subject.
6. Marie is a (good) writer. She writes

7. It's a (beautiful) drawn picture. It looks
8. Drivers must drive (slow) in this road. It is a (dangerous) road.
9. She smiled (happy) She had a face.
10. I did the homework (complete) by myself. I'm an (autonomous) student.