

Adverbs and Adjectives

Adjectives modify nouns. To modify means to change in some way. By modifying, adjectives give more detail about the noun by answering one of the following different questions: "What kind?" or "Which?" or "How many?" Sometimes adjectives come after the nouns they modify. These adjectives will most often follow a verb from this list: be, feel, taste, smell, sound, look, appear, and seem.

- What kind of car was it?

It was a **red** car.

It was a **fast** car.

- Which dog bit you?

The **aggressive** dog bit me.

The **black** dog bit me.

- How many apples were in the basket?

There were **five** apples.

There were **a lot** of apples.

- Adjective following 'be'

She is **kind**.

- Adjective following 'feel'

This jacket feels **warm**.

- Adjective following 'taste'

That milk tastes **funny**.

- Adjective following 'smell'

Something smells **awful**.

- Adjective following 'sound'

He sounds **terrible**.

- Adjective following 'look'

The cats look **sleepy**.

- Adjective following 'appear'

These facts appear **accurate**.

- Adjective following 'seem'

They seem **nice**.

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. (You can recognize adverbs easily because many of them are formed by adding -ly to an adjective, though that is not always the case.) The most common question that adverbs answer is how. In general,

an adverb will answer one of the following questions: “How?” or “When” or “Where?” or “Why?” Answering ‘Why?’ usually requires an infinitive phrase.

- How was the car ride?

The car ride went **quickly**.

The car ride went **smoothly**.

- When will you come to the party?

I will come **soon**.

I will be arriving **late**.

- Where did you find the pencil?

It was **here**.

It was lying **there**.

- Why is she eating that salad?

She is eating the salad **to get more vegetables in her diet**.

She is eating the salad **to make up for yesterday’s deep-dish pizza**.

Differences between adjectives and adverbs

- "The dog smells **clean**."

Here, clean describes the dog itself. It's not that he smells something clean; it's that he's had a bath and does not stink. Clean describes what kind of smell comes from the dog making it an adjective.

- "The dog smells **carefully**."

Here, carefully describes how the dog smells, making it an adverb. We imagine him sniffing cautiously.

- “Joseph seems **strange** and **upset**.”

Strange and upset modify the proper noun, Joseph, in this sentence, so strange and upset are both adjectives.

- “Joseph seems **strangely** upset.”

Strangely modifies the adjective, upset, in this sentence, so strangely is an adverb.

Adverbs and Adjectives Worksheet

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 and Adjectives Worksheet Answer Key

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.