

Grammar ADVERBS

Adverb: _____

EXAMPLE A firefighter ran **swiftly** past her.
He was carrying a **very** small child.
The fire blazed **too** dangerously for anyone to enter.

An adverb answers questions about the word it modifies: _____

EXAMPLES a. **Yesterday** a fire **completely** destroyed the home of a family on Coffee Street.
Yesterday and completely are adverbs modifying the verb *destroyed*.
Yesterday tells *when*; completely tells *to what extent*.

b. A woman who lives **nearby** explained that the fire began **early** in the morning and continued **furiously** until noon.

In this example, nearby is an adverb modifying the verb *lives*; it tells *where*. Early is an adverb modifying the verb *began*; it tells *when*. Furiously is an adverb modifying the verb *continued*; it tells *how*.

c. **Rarely** does a fire last **so long**.

Rarely modifies the verb *does last* and tells *how often*. So modifies the adverb *long*, which modifies the verb *does last*. Together the words so long answer the question *to what extent*.

Here is a list of words that are often used as adverbs:

<u>Where?</u>	here, there, away, up, inside
<u>When?</u>	now, then, later, soon
<u>How?</u>	clearly, easily, quietly, slowly
<u>How often?</u>	never, always, often, seldom
<u>To what extent?</u>	very, too, almost, so, really

The Forms of Adverbs

Many adverbs end in *-ly*. These adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to adjectives: *clear* - *clearly*, *vigorous* - *vigorously*, *quiet* - *quietly*. **However, do not think that all words that end in *-ly* are adverbs.** Some words ending in *-ly* are adjectives: friendly welcome, timely remark, lonely weekend, kindly doctor.

The word **not** is nearly always used as an adverb to modify a verb. Sometimes **not** is part of a contraction, as in hadn't, aren't, and didn't. When it is, the n't is an adverb and should not be mistaken for part of the verb.

Practice 1 Underline all of the adverbs that modify verbs in each sentence.

1. Newscasters are now warning us about forest fires.
2. Forest fires can spread rapidly.
3. Our scout leader often discusses fire safety.
4. Scouts in this area listen carefully.
5. We never burn fires in windy weather.
6. A gust of wind can quickly spread a small fire.
7. Soon we will find a safe location.
8. Mr. Jones always pours water over his fire.
9. He stirs the coals thoroughly as he pours.
10. Then he shovels dirt over the wet ashes.

Practice 2 Underline all of the adverbs that modify adjectives in each sentence.

1. J.C. Owens was quite unhealthy as a child.
2. His parents were really happy about his running.
3. Running was amazingly good for the boy's health.
4. The Owens' Cleveland home was entirely different from their first home.
5. The boy was too shy to explain that his name was J.C. and not Jesse.
6. In high school, one coach was especially kind to Jesse.
7. Coach Riley noticed that the young man was surprisingly fast.
8. The 1936 Summer Olympics were terribly exciting.
9. Winning four track-and-field gold medals was extremely unusual.
10. Definitely talented, in 1976, Jesse Owens won the Medal of Freedom.

Practice 3 Underline all of the adverbs that modify other adverbs in each sentence.

1. A sloth almost never travels on the ground.
2. Cheetahs can move very quickly.
3. Those armadillos sleep much more than most animals.
4. Can red kangaroos jump exceedingly high?
5. The tiny bristlemouth fish lives almost everywhere.