

- EXAMPLE**
1. "Mom, I'm home!" said Tony, sprinting in the door.
 1. "Mom, I'm home!" bellowed Tony, sprinting in the door.
 2. "I've got great news!" he said.
 2. "I've got great news!" he shouted.
1. "Guess what? I won the spelling bee," he said.
 2. "Honey, that's wonderful," said his mother.
 3. "I spelled 'expeditious' when no one else could, not even Stephanie Greenblatt," said Tony.
 4. "I'm so proud of you," said his mother.
 5. "Who cares?" said his sister Amy.
 6. "You're just jealous," said Tony.
 7. "I am not!" Amy said, running out of the kitchen.
 8. "Don't let her bother you," said his mother. "You should enjoy your success."
 9. "I am enjoying it," said Tony, "but I wish I could share my happiness with Amy."
 10. "She'll come around," his mother said. "Meanwhile, sit down and tell me all about it."

The Adverb

1e. An *adverb* modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells *where*, *when*, *how*, or *to what extent* (*how long* or *how much*). Just as an adjective makes the meaning of a noun or a pronoun more definite, an adverb makes the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb more definite.

Adverbs Modifying Verbs

In the following examples, each boldface adverb modifies a verb.

Where?	When?
We lived there .	May we go tomorrow ?
Please step up .	Water the plant weekly .
I have the ticket here .	We'll see you later .
Put that down .	He arrived early .

TIPS & TRICKS

To identify a word as an adverb, ask yourself:

Does this word modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb?

Does it tell *when*, *where*, *how*, or *to what extent*?

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use adverbs.

How?She **quickly** agreed.The rain fell **softly**.Drive **carefully**.He sang **beautifully**.**To What Extent?**Fill the tank **completely**.He **hardly** moved.Did she hesitate **slightly**?They **partly** completed the form.

As you can see in the preceding examples, adverbs may come before or after the verbs they modify. Sometimes adverbs interrupt the parts of a verb phrase.

Adverbs may also introduce questions.

EXAMPLE **Where** in the world did you ever find that pink-and-purple necktie? [The adverb *Where* introduces the question and modifies the verb phrase *did find*. The adverb *ever* interrupts the verb phrase and also modifies it.]

NOTE Although many adverbs end in *-ly*, the *-ly* ending does not necessarily mean that a word is an adverb. Many adjectives also end in *-ly*: the *daily* newspaper, an *early* train, an *only* child, a *lonely* person. Also, some words, such as *now*, *then*, *far*, *already*, *somewhat*, *not*, and *right*, are often used as adverbs, yet they do not end in *-ly*.

Exercise 17 Completing Sentences by Supplying Appropriate Adverbs

Complete each of the following sentences by supplying an appropriate adverb. The word or phrase in parentheses tells you what information the adverb should give about the action.

EXAMPLE 1. He moved his hand (*how*).

1. *gracefully*

1. The soldiers must travel (*how*).
2. You will probably sleep well (*when*).
3. They whispered (*how*) to Mr. Baldwin.
4. Tonya took a deep breath and dove (*where*).
5. Did you study (*to what extent*)?
6. Handle the ducklings (*how*).
7. My uncle Hans is (*when*) in a bad mood.
8. Your taxi should be (*where*) soon.
9. I could (*to what extent*) taste the tangy pizza.
10. (*When*), you should paste the pictures on the poster.

Adverbs Modifying Adjectives

- EXAMPLES** Beth did an **exceptionally** fine job. [The adverb *exceptionally* modifies the adjective *fine*, telling to what extent.]
- Slightly** cooler temperatures are forecast. [The adverb *slightly* modifies the adjective *cooler*, telling to what extent.]
- Mr. Lomazzi is an **especially** talented chef. [The adverb *especially* modifies the adjective *talented*, telling to what extent.]

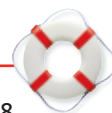
Exercise 18 Identifying Adverbs That Modify Adjectives

Identify the adverbs that modify adjectives in the sentences below. For each adverb, give the adjective it modifies.

- EXAMPLE** 1. The compass I bought was **incredibly** cheap.
1. *incredibly*—*cheap*
- If you are ever really lost in the woods at night, knowing how to find the North Star may be extremely important.
 - Here is one method that is quite useful.
 - First, find the Big Dipper, which is surprisingly easy to spot.
 - It consists of seven rather bright stars in the northern sky that are arranged in the shape of a large dipper.
 - Do not confuse it with the Little Dipper, which is somewhat smaller.
 - After you have found the Big Dipper, you must be very careful to sight along the two stars that form the front of the dipper bowl.
 - They are two points on an almost straight line to the North Star.
 - This method for getting your bearings is completely reliable—except when the clouds are so dense that you cannot see the stars.
 - It would be especially wise to check the weather forecast before going on a hike.
 - Remember to take a compass, water, and a fully stocked first-aid kit.

Think as a Reader/Writer

The most frequently used adverbs are *too*, *so*, *really*, and *very*. In fact, these words are often overworked. To make your speaking and writing more interesting, replace these general adverbs with more specific ones, such as *completely*, *especially*, and *quite*.



HELP

In Exercise 18, a sentence may contain more than one adverb modifying an adjective.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use adverbs.

Exercise 19 Revising with Adverb Modifiers

Make each of the phrases and sentences below more descriptive by adding one adverb that modifies each of the italicized adjectives. Use a different adverb in each item.

- EXAMPLE**
1. a *confusing* sentence
 1. an *especially* confusing sentence
 1. a *sharp* turn
 2. *playful* kittens
 3. an *easy* question
 4. a *swept* floor
 5. Her little brother has a *bright* smile.
 6. Terri felt *satisfied* that she had done her best.
 7. The old mansion was *silent*.
 8. Robert became *sick* and had to leave early.
 9. Had Clara been *safe*?
 10. Most of the questions on the test were *difficult*.

Adverbs Modifying Other Adverbs

- EXAMPLES**
- Calvin was **almost** never there. [The adverb *almost* modifies the adverb *never*, telling to what extent.]
- We'll meet **shortly** afterward. [The adverb *shortly* modifies the adverb *afterward*, telling to what extent.]
- She slept **too** late. [The adverb *too* modifies the adverb *late*, telling to what extent.]

NOTE One kind of adverb—the **conjunctive adverb**—is an adverb used as a connecting word between independent clauses in a compound sentence.

EXAMPLE We tried to be at the stadium by 6:30 P.M.; **however**, we arrived at the wrong time.

Another kind of adverb—the **relative adverb**—is often used to introduce adjective clauses.

EXAMPLES Uncle Lionel told us about the time **when** he drove across the country.

In 1815, Napoleon was sent into exile on the island of St. Helena, **where** he died in 1821.

Reference Note

For information about **compound sentences**, see page 155. For information on **adverb clauses**, see page 150.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use adverbs.

Noun or Adverb?

Some words that can be used as nouns can also be used as adverbs.

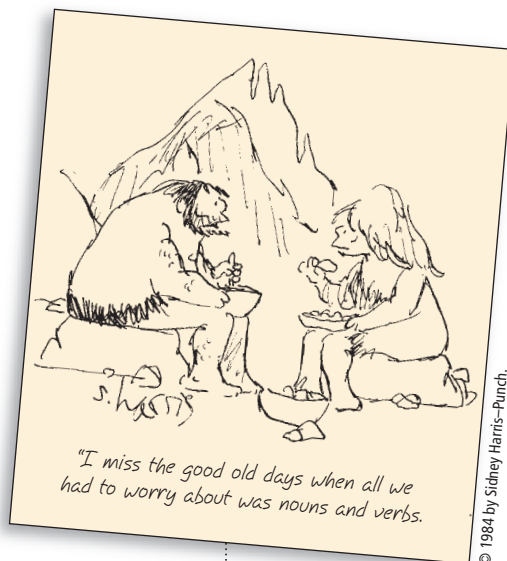
EXAMPLES **Tomorrow** never seems to arrive. [*noun*]

We will leave **tomorrow**. [*Tomorrow is used as an adverb telling when.*]

Think of this place as your **home**. [*noun*]

He was eager to come **home**. [*Home is used as an adverb telling where.*]

When identifying parts of speech, remember: A word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb is called an adverb.



Exercise 20 Identifying Adverbs That Modify Other Adverbs

Identify all the adverbs that modify other adverbs in the sentences below. After each adverb, give the adverb it modifies.

- EXAMPLE**
- Brian is so terribly shy that he blushes when people speak to him.
 - so, terribly*
 - The cat leapt to the windowsill quite agilely.
 - The books were stacked rather haphazardly.
 - Corrie knew she'd have to get up incredibly early to watch the eclipse tomorrow.
 - The tornado almost completely destroyed the barn.
 - The famous diamond was more heavily guarded than any other exhibit at the museum.
 - My brother is nearly always finished with his paper route before I am finished with mine.
 - She registered too late to be eligible for the classes she wanted.
 - In the final four minutes of the game, Isiah Thomas shot extremely accurately.
 - Usually it seems that each month goes more rapidly than the month before.
 - They walked onto the stage most calmly, as if they felt completely relaxed.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify parts of speech.

Exercise 21 Identifying Adverbs and the Words They Modify

Identify the adverb or adverbs in each of the following sentences. Then, give the word or expression that each adverb modifies. If a sentence does not contain an adverb, write *none*.

EXAMPLE 1. Have you ever thought about writing a movie script?
1. *ever—have thought*

1. Successful movie scripts, or screenplays, are written according to a very rigid formula.
2. The main character and the action of the story must grab an audience's interest quickly.
3. Almost exactly twenty-five minutes into the movie comes a "plot point."
4. A plot point is a surprising event that swings the story around in another direction.
5. Most of the action and conflict occurs in the next hour of the movie.
6. Then comes another plot point, about eighty-five minutes into the movie.
7. Finally, the audience learns what happens to the characters.
8. The last time I went to a movie I really liked, I checked my watch.
9. It was quite interesting to find that the movie's timing matched this formula.
10. Try this test yourself sometime.

Exercise 22 Revising Sentences by Using Appropriate Adverbs

Revise each of the sentences below by adding at least one appropriate adverb. Try not to use the adverbs *too*, *so*, *really*, and *very*.

EXAMPLE 1. Dana, bring me the fire extinguisher!
1. *Dana, bring me the fire extinguisher now!*

1. Angelo promised me that he would try to meet the train.
2. My coat was torn during the long hike, so Barbara lent me her plastic poncho.
3. Engineering degrees are popular with students because job opportunities in engineering are good.
4. The Wallaces are settled into a new house, which they built by themselves.

5. When the baseball season begins, I will be attending games every day.
6. Ronald dribbled to his left and threw the ball into a crowd of defenders.
7. Visits to national monuments and parks remind us that our country has an exciting history.
8. We returned the book to Marcella, but she had planned her report without it.
9. Georgia O’Keeffe displayed her paintings and received the admiration of a large audience.
10. The recipe calls for two eggs, but I did not have time to buy any at the store.

Review B Identifying Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Verbs, and Adverbs

Indicate whether the italicized words in the paragraph below are used as *nouns*, *pronouns*, *adjectives*, *verbs*, or *adverbs*.

EXAMPLE [1] *You* may know that Brazil is the *largest* country in South America.

1. *You*—pronoun; *largest*—adjective

[1] My *best* friend’s mother just *came* back from visiting her family in Brazil. [2] *She* showed us *some* pictures she took in Brasília, the capital, and told us about it. [3] It was amazing to learn that *this* area had been *jungle* until construction began in the 1950s. [4] At first, few people lived in Brasília because it was so *isolated*. [5] However, over the *years* hundreds of thousands of people *have* moved *there*. [6] Several other Brazilian cities *also* lie within one hundred *miles* of Brasília. [7] A number of *good* highways *connect* Brasília with other major cities. [8] Residents enjoy the wide streets and open spaces *that* are *shown* in this picture. [9] *One* of Brasília’s *most* striking features is its bold architecture. [10] Aren’t the government buildings at the Plaza of the Three Powers *fantastic*?

