

Adjective or Adverb?

Both adjectives and adverbs modify other words. Sometimes the same word is used as an adjective in one sentence and as an adverb in another.

The early movie begins at 4 o'clock. (adjective, tells what kind)

She arrived early this morning. (adverb, tells when)

The comparative and superlative forms of the adjective *good* and the adverb *well* look the same:

adjective: good better best

adverb: well better best

Even though there are likenesses in appearance, remember the differences, especially in use, between the two types of modifiers.

Adjectives

- Describe nouns or pronouns
- Tell *which one, what kind,* or *how many*

Adverbs

- Describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
- Tell *how, when, where,* or *to what degree*
- Many, but not all, end in *-ly*

Read each sentence. Circle the word modified by the underlined word. If the underlined word is an adjective, write *ADJ* on the line. If the word is an adverb, write *ADV*.

1. This bus is late almost every morning. _____
2. Mary suddenly slipped on the worn stair. _____
3. My nephew is a timid fellow. _____
4. The project started well, but problems soon developed. _____
5. We work at a hectic pace, so we are tired at the end of the day. _____
6. After changing the oil in her car, Joyce's hands were grimy. _____
7. Ms. Greene responded coolly to the last-minute invitation. _____
8. He felt better prepared for the questions than he had been last time. _____
9. Julio works the late shift at Glenview Hospital. _____
10. Who is the most capable person for the new job opening? _____
11. After the long walk, Jim's dog thirstily lapped the water. _____

B**Practice**

Adding *-ly* to a descriptive adjective that tells *what kind* changes the word to an adverb that describes *how*. Here are some examples:

Adjective	Adverb
fierce	fiercely
lucky	luckily
honest	honestly

When these adjectives and adverbs are used in comparisons, their forms have clear differences. Study the following examples:

Adjective	Adverb
fierce, fiercer, fiercest	fiercely, more fiercely, most fiercely
lucky, luckier, luckiest	luckily, more luckily, most luckily
honest, more honest, most honest	honestly, more honestly, most honestly

First determine whether an adjective or an adverb is needed. Then, if the modifier is used in a comparison, choose between the comparative and superlative forms.

Circle the correct modifier in each sentence.

1. He gave (most generous, most generously) of all to the scholarship fund.
2. Purchase the (most darkly, darkest) curtain you can find.
3. The river is (more peaceful, more peacefully) here than it is downstream.
4. We (wise, wisely) decided to skip the appetizer and get dessert instead.
5. If you speak (firmer, more firmly) than that, your dog will obey you.
6. To make a (good, well) impression at the job interview, dress appropriately.
7. It is (more easily, easier) to leave the freeway here than to drive to the next exit.
8. Arnie's truck jolted (abrupt, abruptly) to a stop.
9. My sister speaks Chinese (more fluent, more fluently) than I do.
10. They divided the bill as (fair, fairly) as possible.
11. Jacob speaks (good, well) but has some trouble with writing.
12. When the lights went out, my young son was (more fearful, more fearfully) than I was.
13. Who is the (most loyally, most loyal) member of the civic association?

C Apply

Use the adjective or the adverb written in boldface to complete each sentence. Change the word to comparative or superlative form if necessary.

patient **patiently**

1. Treena _____ coaxed her son to finish the meal.
2. Are you _____ with strangers than with family members?
3. Alex is the _____ person in the group.

high **highly**

4. Who is the _____ acclaimed singer in the world?
5. Will the person with the _____ score win the contest?
6. It is _____ unlikely that we'll see each other soon.

quiet **quietly**

7. The library is a _____ place for students to study.
8. Moira is _____ in history class than her twin sister Maura.
9. Jody is _____ making plans for her husband's surprise birthday party.

Use a form of the adjective or adverb in parentheses to complete each sentence.

10. (soon) Henry finished the task _____ than the other plumber.
11. (loud) When Bella saw the snake, she shrieked _____.
12. (kind) Mrs. Fioretti is the _____ woman I've ever met.
13. (early) Will the office open _____ because of the volume of work?
14. (soft) Talk _____ so you do not frighten the sleeping child.
15. (brave) The doe _____ defended her fawn from the wolves.
16. (careful) Alicia listened _____ to the manager's directions.
17. (good) Which road is _____, Highway 12 or Route 306?
18. (excellent) From this list of restaurants, choose the one with the _____ service.

D**Check Up**

For each item, choose the sentence that uses adjectives and adverbs correctly.

1. A Sam is the most thoughtfully person in the office.
B During the chess match, Daniel made boldest plays than his opponent.
C Our vacation passed too rapid.
D The lawyer skillfully argued the case in court.
2. F Is the poetry of Langston Hughes as well known as that of Robert Frost?
G Dr. Biggs careful examined his patient.
H Do you exercise on a regularly basis?
J The Great Plains have vastly areas of prairie land.
3. A Bob is the most carelessly person I know.
B Walking along the beach is the most peaceful activity of my busy life.
C Vanessa plays the trumpet good.
D The sudden rain brought least relief from the heat.
4. F One candidate spoke more forceful than the other.
G Jeffrey volunteered cheerful to lead the clean-up crew.
H The foundation is the most solid part of the building.
J Our puppy fearless defended her squeaky toy from the cat.

Look at the underlined word or words in each sentence. Choose the answer that is written correctly for the underlined part.

5. Because I walked most fastest than James, I finished the course first.
A fastest
B fastly
C faster
D Correct as it is
6. Her gentle voice soothed the restless child.
F gently
G gentler
H more gently
J Correct as it is
7. Philip recent returned from the Peace Corps.
A recently
B more recently
C most recent
D Correct as it is
8. Yolanda is highest creative in designing new computer games.
F most highest
G highly
H most highly
J Correct as it is