

Adjectives and adverbs (1) (**quick/quickly**)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time went very **quickly**.
- The driver of the car was **seriously** injured in the accident.

Quickly and **seriously** are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are made from an adjective + -ly:

adjective: quick serious careful quiet heavy bad
adverb: quickly seriously carefully quietly heavily badly

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in -ly are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in -ly too, for example:

friendly lively elderly lonely silly lovely

B

Adjective or adverb?

Adjectives (**quick/careful** etc.) tell us about a *noun*. We use adjectives before nouns and after some verbs, especially **be**:

- Tom is a **careful** driver. (*not* 'a carefully driver')
- We didn't go out because of the **heavy** rain.
- Please **be** **quiet**.
- I was disappointed that my exam results were so **bad**.

We also use adjectives after the verbs **look/feel/sound** etc. (see Unit 98D):

- Why do you always **look** so **serious**?

Compare:

- She speaks **perfect** English.
adjective + noun

Compare these sentences with **look**:

- Tom **looked** sad when I saw him. (= he seemed sad, his expression was sad)

Adverbs (**quickly/carefully** etc.) tell us about a *verb*. An adverb tells us how somebody does something or how something happens:

- Tom **drove** **carefully** along the narrow road. (*not* 'drove careful')
- We didn't go out because it was **raining** **heavily**. (*not* 'raining heavy')
- Please **speak** **quietly**. (*not* 'speak quiet')
- I was disappointed that I **did** so **badly** in the exam. (*not* 'did so bad')

- Why do you never **take** me **seriously**?

- She **speaks** English **perfectly**.
verb + object + adverb

- Tom **looked** at me **sadly**. (= he looked at me in a sad way)

C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

reasonably cheap (*adverb + adjective*)
terribly sorry (*adverb + adjective*)
incredibly quickly (*adverb + adverb*)

- It's a **reasonably** **cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely** **good**.
- Oh, I'm **terribly** **sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* 'terrible sorry')
- Maria learns languages **incredibly** **quickly**.
- The examination was **surprisingly** **easy**.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (**injured/organised/written** etc.):

- Two people were **seriously** **injured** in the accident. (*not* 'serious injured')
- The meeting was very **badly** **organised**.

99.1 Complete the sentences with adverbs. The first letter(s) of each adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining **heavily**...
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very **ba**.....
- 3 I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite **ea**.....
- 4 We had to wait for a long time but we didn't complain. We waited **pa**.....
- 5 Nobody knew George was coming to see us. He arrived **unex**.....
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis **reg**.....

99.2 Put in the right word.

- 1 The driver of the car was **seriously** injured. (serious/seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had **serious** injuries. (serious/seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very **selfish**. (selfish/selfishly)
- 4 Rose is **terrible** upset about losing her job. (terrible/terribly)
- 5 There was a **sudden** change in the weather. (sudden/suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the party was **colourful** dressed. (colourful/colourfully)
- 7 Linda likes wearing **colourful** clothes. (colourful/colourfully)
- 8 She fell and hurt herself **badly**. (bad/badly)
- 9 He says he didn't do well at school because he was **badly** taught. (bad/badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look **safe**. (safe/safely)
- 11 He looked at me **angry** when I interrupted him. (angry/angrily)

99.3 Complete each sentence using a word from the list. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

careful(ly)	complete(ly)	continuous(ly)	financial(ly)	fluent(ly)
happy/happily	nervous(ly)	perfect(ly)	quick(ly)	special(ly)

- 1 Our holiday was too short. The time passed very **quickly**...
- 2 Tom doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always
- 3 Sue works She never seems to stop.
- 4 Alice and Stan are very married.
- 5 Monica's English is very although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 6 I cooked this meal for you, so I hope you like it.
- 7 Everything was very quiet. There was silence.
- 8 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me
- 9 Do you usually feel before examinations?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car but it's impossible for me at the moment.

99.4 Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

absolutely	reasonably	unusually
badly	seriously	unnecessarily
completely	slightly	

cheap	enormous	planned
changed	ill	quiet
damaged	long	

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive but it was **reasonably cheap**...
- 2 George's mother is in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only
- 5 The children are normally very lively but they're today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had
- 7 The film was It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was