**An *adverb***is a [part of speech](https://www.thoughtco.com/part-of-speech-english-grammar-1691590) (or [word class](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-class-grammar-1692608)) that's primarily used to [modify](https://www.thoughtco.com/modification-in-grammar-1691323) a [verb](https://www.thoughtco.com/verb-definition-1692592), [adjective](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-adjective-clause-1689064), or other adverbs and can additionally modify [prepositional phrases](https://www.thoughtco.com/prepositional-phrase-1691663), [subordinate clauses](https://www.thoughtco.com/subordinate-clause-grammar-1692149), and complete [sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-grammar-1692087). Put another way, adverbs are [content words](https://www.thoughtco.com/content-lexical-word-1689918) that provide information about how, when, or where something happens. Adverbs are also called ***intensifiers*** because they intensify the meaning of the word or words they are modifying, notes [Your Dictionary](http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-adverbs.html). ( **Mitigators)**

An adverb that modifies an adjective—as in ***quite***sad—or another adverb—as in *very* carelessly—appears immediately in front of the word it modifies, but one that modifies a verb is generally more flexible: It may appear before or after—as in *softly* sang or sang *softly*—or at the beginning of the sentence—*Softly*she sang to the baby—with the position of an adverb typically affecting the meaning of the sentence. [Adverbs](https://www.thoughtco.com/adverbs-of-frequency-sentence-placement-4053163) can modify a verb or adjective in several ways, by providing information about emphasis, manner, time, place, and frequency.

[**Adverbs of Emphasis**](https://www.thoughtco.com/adverb-of-emphasis-intensifier-1689068) **noun – to emphasize**

*Adverbs of emphasis* are used to give added force or a greater degree of certainty to another [word](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-english-language-1692612) in a [sentence](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-grammar-1692087) or to the sentence as a whole, for example:

* He *certainly* liked the food.
* She is *clearly* the frontrunner.
* *Naturally*, I like my chicken crispy.

Other common adverbs of emphasis include *absolutely*, *definitely, obviously, positively, really, simply,*and*undoubtedly.* These types of adverbs serve to bolster the part of speech they modify.

[**Adverbs of Manner**](https://www.thoughtco.com/adverb-of-manner-grammar-1691300) **– HOW?**

*Adverbs of manner* indicate how something is done. They are usually placed at the end of a sentence or before the main verb, as in:

* Tom drives *quickly.*
* She *slowly* opened the door.
* Mary waited for him *patiently.*

Other examples of adverbs of manner include *quietly,* *fitfully*, and *carefully*.

[**Adverbs of Time**](https://www.thoughtco.com/adverb-of-time-grammar-1692460)

*Adverbs of time* tell you when or at what time something is done. Adverbs of time are usually placed at the end of a sentence. They can also be used at the beginning of a sentence followed by a comma.

* The meeting is *next* week*.*
* *Yesterday,* we decided to take a walk.
* I've *already* bought my tickets for the concert.

These adverbs are used with other [time expressions](https://www.thoughtco.com/time-expressions-and-tenses-1210672), such as days of the week. The most common adverbs of time include *yet*, *already,* *yesterday*, *tomorrow*, *next week* (or *month* or *year*), *last week* (or *month* or *year*), *now*, and *ago*.

[**Adverbs of Place**](https://www.thoughtco.com/adverb-of-place-1691512)

*Adverbs of place* indicate where something is done and usually appear at the end of a sentence, but they can also follow the verb.

* I decided to rest *over there.*
* She'll wait for you in the room *downstairs*.
* Peter walked *above* me *upstairs*.

Adverbs of place can be confused with [prepositional phrases](https://www.thoughtco.com/prepositional-phrase-1691663) such as *in the doorway*or *at the shop.*Prepositional phrases indicate where something is,but adverbs of place can tell you where something occurs, such as *here* and *everywhere.*

[**Adverbs of Frequency**](https://www.thoughtco.com/adverb-of-frequency-grammar-3862746)

*Adverbs of frequency* tell you how often something is repeatedly done. They include *usually*, *sometimes*, *never*, *often*, and *rarely*. Adverbs of frequency are often placed directly before the main verb:

* She *rarely* goes to parties.
* I *often* read a newspaper.
* He *usually* gets up at 6 o'clock.

Adverbs of frequency that express infrequency are not used in the negative or question form. Sometimes, adverbs of frequency are placed at the beginning of a sentence:

* *Sometimes*,I enjoy staying at home instead of going on vacation.
* *Often*, Peter will telephone his mother before he leaves for work.

Adverbs of frequency follow the verb *to be:*

* He is *sometimes* late for work.
* I am *often* confused by computers.

**Adverbs Modifying Adjectives**

When adverbs modify an adjective, they are placed before the adjective:

* She is *extremely* happy.
* They are *absolutely* sure.

However, do not use *very* with adjectives to express increased quality of a basic adjective, such as *fantastic*:

* She is an *absolutely* fantastic piano player.
* Mark is an *absolutely* amazing lecturer.

You would not say, "She is veryfantastic," or "Mark is a very amazing lecturer."

**Forming Adverbs From Adjectives**

Adverbs are often formed by adding *-ly* to an adjective, such as:

* Beautiful > beautifully
* Careful > carefully

However, some adjectives don't change in the adverb form, such as *fast* and *hard.* Many common adverbs like *just*, *still*, and *almost*do not end in *-ly*. *Good* is probably the most important example. The adverb form of *good* is *well*, as in:

* He is *good* at tennis.
* He plays tennis *well.*

In the first sentence, *good* is an adjective that modifies the pronoun *he*; while in the second, *well* is an adverb that modifies *plays* (explains how he plays tennis). Additionally, not all words that end in *-ly* are adverbs, such as *friendly* and *neighborly*, which are both adjectives.

She studies hard for her exam (Adj) = She actually does study hard

She hardly studies for her exam (Adverb) = She does not study at all

I’m hardworking – I’m industrious /I’m an industrious person

I’m studious

He’s illustrious - ~~very famous~~

~~A really big place/house-~~ An enormous place

~~Really big~~- colossal/ gigantic

Spacious/capacious

She’s ~~very helpful~~- Benevolent

Charismatic – CHARISMA

Really helpful- beneficial?

Lucrative venture- financially very beneficial

Very confused- perplexed/ baffled/ flummoxed

Really low/upset – dejected/ despondent/crestfallen

Mortified /mortification- humiliation

Very disrespectful- insolent (insolence) impudent (impudence)

Deter – discourage invest- divest

Very/really disgusting – despicable/ repugnant

Really shameful/ - ignominious/ scandalous/inglorious/ ignoble

Really happy- ecstatic / rapture /rapturous rupture

Euphoria --

Utopia / dystopia

Shangri-La

**A fast train**

**The train is fast/ She drives fast not fastly**

**Distinguishing Between Adverbs and Adjectives**

Sometimes the same word can be both an adjective and an adverb. To distinguish between them, it is important to look at the [context](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-context-language-1689920) of the word and its function in a sentence.

For instance, in the sentence, "The *fast* train from London to Cardiff leaves at 3 o'clock," the word *fast* modifies and comes before a noun, *train*, and is, therefore, an [attributive adjective](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-attributive-adjective-1689145). However, in the sentence, "The sprinter took the bend *fast*," the word *fast* modifies the verb *took* and is, therefore, an adverb.

Interestingly, *-ly* is not the only suffix that can be added to the end of a word to change its meaning or be used by both adjectives and adverbs. Additionally, *-er* and *-est* can combine with adverbs in a much more limited way wherein the [comparative](https://www.thoughtco.com/comparative-degree-adjectives-and-adverbs-1689881) form of an adverb is likely to add *more* or *most* to the beginning of the adverb phrase rather than adding an *-er* or *-est*.

It's important to refer to context clues when hints like the addition of an *-ly* or the word *most* to accompany a word doesn't tell you whether it is an adjective or adverb. Look to the word that is being emphasized. If the word being emphasized is a noun, you have an adjective; if the word being emphasized is a verb, you have an adverb.

In [English grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-english-grammar-1690579), a preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a [noun](https://www.thoughtco.com/noun-in-grammar-1691442) or [pronoun](https://www.thoughtco.com/pronoun-definition-1691685) and other words in a sentence. Prepositions are words like *in* and *out*, *above* and *below*, and *to* and *from,* and they're words we use all the time.

How useful are prepositions? Just look at how many prepositions are italicized in this simple sentence from E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*: "*For* the first few days *of*his life, Wilbur was allowed to live *in* a box *near*the stove *in* the kitchen."