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SAT: Adjectives v. Adverbs

Notes on Adjectives:

Adjectives, typically, modify nouns or pronouns and answer four (4) questions:

What kind of? Which one? How much? How many?

Adjectives can be before or after the noun they modify:

The traffic, slow and congested, served as the cause for the road rage incident.

Proper Adjectives are derived from proper nouns:

Some Pennsylvania schools lack plumbing.

A **predicate adjective** follows a linking verb to modify the subject:

Nicolette’s spicy corn salsa was delicious.

Articles (a, an, the) are all adjectives.

Notes on Adverbs:

Adverbs, typically, modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs and answer five (5) questions:

When? Where? Why? How? To What Extent?

Adverb for a Verb: We happily visited my aunt and uncle after lunch.

Adverb for an Adj: The bowl of chili was extremely hot.

Adverb for an Adv: The old mall walkers move too slowly.

Adverbs may also modify prepositions and prepositional phrases:

Grandma left at ten; we left just after.

My plate was filled almost to the top.

Many negatives, like not, barely, and never, are adverbs.

Tricky Adjectives & Adverbs:

Good and Bad are always adjectives.

Well and Badly are adverbs.

Well can be an adjective to describe one’s health, but use Good if it is not involving health.

Lima beans taste bad. Boston baked beans taste good. But eat too many, and you may not feel well.

Read the following sentences and decide if the adjective or adverb is appropriate for each sentence.

1. A forkful of well-cooked polenta goes down smooth / smoothly.

2. When the new season of *Caillou* came out, I quick / quickly went to the store to buy it.

3. I ate my first plate of pancakes near / nearly twenty minutes ago.

4. The first time I cooked eggs, I cooked them bad / badly.

5. Chocolate chips in eggs taste bad / badly.

6. If you continue to eat so slow / slowly, we will be late.

7. Some think that French toast tastes good / well with lots of maple syrup.

8. It can be argued strong / strongly that pizza is America’s favorite food.

9. The Phillies are certain / certainly no strangers to the playoffs.

10. One can purchase instant / instantly coffee at any supermarket.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

SAT: Adjectives v. Adverbs: Answers

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