

3 Adjectives and adverbs

Get cracking

Read these sentences and write what the words in *italics* describe. One has been done for you.

These mangoes are *green*. Can you give me a *ripe* mango?

Of course, take it *quickly*. There is only one.

What else would you like?

I *really* love oranges. Ok, have these. They are *quite* *sweet*.

green	describes mangoes
ripe	describes <i>mango</i>
quickly	describes _____
really	describes _____
quite	describes _____
sweet	describes _____



Look at these sentences.



My mother gave me a purse.



Farhan and Neena ran.

These sentences are simple and don't give you an idea of the things they mention.

Now look at these sentences.

My mother gave me a beautiful shining pink purse.

Farhan and Neena quickly ran downhill.

These sentences give us more information. The words *beautiful*, *shining* and *pink* tell us about the noun *purse*. They are called **adjectives**.

The words *quickly* and *downhill* tell us about the verb *run*. They are called **adverbs**.

Adverbs also modify adjectives and other adverbs.

Examples: This purse is **very** beautiful. (modifies the adjective *beautiful*)

They sang **quite** well. (modifies the adverb *well* which modifies the verb *sang*)

Now read this paragraph and study the words in *italics*.

Karthik is *very* happy with the *fantastic* present *his* uncle gave him on his 12th birthday.

He played *continuously* with his *new* playstation. His parents do not know *how* to stop him.

The words *happy*, *fantastic*, *his*, 12th and *new* modify the nouns *Karthik*, *present*, *uncle* and *birthday*. They are **adjectives**.

The word *very* modifies the adjective *happy* and the word *continuously* modifies the verb *played*. The word *how* modifies the verb *know*. They are **adverbs**.

A. The adjectives and adverbs in these sentences are in italics. Underline the adjectives and circle the adverbs.

1. The *beautiful china* vase fell *down* from the table.
2. The *young* child slept *soundly*.
3. *How* are *your* flower pots?
4. Please write *your* name *neatly* in the *blank* space provided *below*.
5. The *little* puppies barked *rather loudly* for *their* size.
6. *Our* cook has prepared *this delicious* dessert *very carefully*.
7. The *last* Sunday of the month is reserved *specially* for eating *out*.
8. This is the place *where* I went *regularly* to study *spoken* English.

Words used both as adjectives and adverbs

You have learnt that adjectives modify nouns and adverbs modify verbs. Some words can be used both as adjectives and adverbs.

Examples: My sister sings *well*. (adverb modifying the verb *sings*)

My father is *well* now. (adjective describing the noun *father*)

Owen Johnson is one of the *fastest* runners in the world. (adjective)

Owen Johnson ran *fastest* amongst all the athletes. (adverb)

Look at some more examples.

clear

We got a *clear* view through the telescope. (adjective)

Please stand *clear* of the doors. (adverb)

clean

These sheets are totally *clean*. (adjective)

The teacher wiped the board *clean*. (adverb)

best

Delhi has one of the *best* metro services in the country. (adjective)

I sleep *best* when I am tired. (adverb)

slow

The bus journey from Kullu to Manali is very *slow*. (adjective)

It is better to drive *slow* in the hills. (adverb)

- B. Fill in the blanks using the words from the list and write whether they are *adjectives* or *adverbs*. You might have to use some words more than once. One has been done for you.

• better	deep	early	fast	fine	•
half	hard	late	most	well	

1. We are running late (adverb) for the train.

We better (adverb) hurry up.

2. The children reached the school early.

3. They took the better train.

4. You are working well.

5. You will do well in the exams.

6. Still waters run deep.

7. The weather in Fiji is fine for most part of the year.

8. Those who wake up early get the most out of their day.

9. This lake is very deep.

10. Let me cut this apple in half so that both of you can have it.



- C. Use each of the following words in two sentences—as an *adjective* and an *adverb*.

1. bright

The bright student wrote fast!

The yellow marker wrote bright.

2. close

The close ribbon was within reach.

That was a close fight.

3. daily

I go to the pool daily.

I wake up with a daily time table.

4. far

You live so far away.

5. first

He gave the first book

6. high

He gave the first prize
The girl is high above the ground.

7. last

He was the last question
He was last

8. low

She can bend low
The low chair sat on the bed

9. quick

The car begins to quick
The dog ran quickly

10. straight

The dog jumped in a straight line
The board is straight

11. slow

I ran slowly
The car is slow

12. fast

The mouse ran quickly



Fun time

Look at these sentences.

My name is Vani. I am victorious. I play basketball very rarely.

The name Vani starts with the letter V and there is an adjective and an adverb in the two sentences that follow, starting with v.

Here is one more example.

My name is Preeti. I am very pretty. I complete my work promptly.

Now write similar sentences for five people. Choose any names you like. Include your own name too.

