

Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- ☐ Our holiday was too short – the time passed very **quickly**.
- ☐ Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident.

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

<i>adjective:</i>	quick	serious	careful	quiet	heavy	bad
<i>adverb:</i>	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* (somebody or something). We use adjectives before nouns:

- ☐ Sam is a **careful driver**.
(*not* a carefully driver)
- ☐ We didn't go out because of the **heavy rain**.

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

- ☐ Sam **drove carefully** along the narrow road. (*not* drove careful)
- ☐ We didn't go out because it was **raining heavily**. (*not* raining heavy)

Compare:

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

- ☐ She **speaks English perfectly**.
verb + noun + adverb

We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially **be**, and also **look/feel/sound** etc.

Compare:

- ☐ Please **be quiet**.
- ☐ I was disappointed that my exam results **were so bad**.
- ☐ Why do you always **look so serious**?
- ☐ I **feel happy**.

- ☐ Please **speak quietly**.
- ☐ I was unhappy that I **did so badly** in the exam. (*not* did so bad)
- ☐ Why do you never **take me seriously**?
- ☐ The children were **playing happily**.

C

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

reasonably cheap	(<i>adverb + adjective</i>)
terribly sorry	(<i>adverb + adjective</i>)
incredibly quickly	(<i>adverb + adverb</i>)

- ☐ It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- ☐ I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* terrible sorry)
- ☐ Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- ☐ The exam 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 **badly organised**.