

UNIT SIX

Adverbs

1 English adverbs are usually formed by adding ‘-ly’ to an adjective (e.g. ‘thin/ly’, ‘clever/ly’). Italian adverbs are usually just as easy to form: **-mente** is added to the feminine singular form of the adjective:

lenta + -mente	lentamente	slowly
rapida + -mente	rapidamente	quickly
semplice + -mente	semplicemente	simply
frequente + -mente	frequentemente	frequently

When the adjective ends in **-le** or **-re** preceded by a vowel, the final **e** is dropped before adding **-mente**:

gentile + -mente	gentilmente	kindly, politely
utile + -mente	utilmente	usefully
maggiore + -mente	maggiormente	mainly
regolare + -mente	regolarmente	regularly

Il tempo cambia <i>rapidamente</i>.	The weather changes quickly.
La nonna cammina <i>lentamente</i>.	Granny walks slowly.
Enrico risponde sempre <i>gentilmente</i>.	Enrico always answers politely.
Faccio i compiti <i>regolarmente</i>.	I do my homework regularly.

2 In Italian there are also many adverbs which do not end in **-mente**. Here are some:

abbastanza	enough/fairly/rather/ quite	forte	loudly/hard
ancora	still	fuori	out/outside
bene	well	già	already
davanti	at the front/in front	lontano	far (away)
dentro	in(side)	male	badly
dietro	at the back/behind	non . . . ancora	not yet
dopo	later/afterwards	non . . . mai	never
		piano	slowly/quietly