

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

ADVERBS AND ADJECTIVES

ACT English: Problem Set

Correct the adjective or adverb in the following sentences.

1. The newly hired courier careful distributed the packages to houses on his route.
2. Unable to perform at Constitution Hall, a disappointedly Marian Anderson could have never imagined that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt would arrange for her to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
3. Hurrying to the store quick before the hurricane hit, Shelby gathered flashlights, batteries, and extra cases of bottled water.
4. Their new neighbors elegant stepped out of the building to attend a black tie event.
5. After several years of not using her roller blades, Anita put them on and stumbled clumsy down the boardwalk.
6. In the event of an emergency, the airplane has built-in features, such as brightly lights leading to the exits, designed to help passengers get off the plane safely.
7. The classroom speakers transmitted the principal's message so loud that the students had to cover their ears.
8. Poet Sylvia Plath was known to have undergone electroconvulsive therapy and was clinical depressed throughout her adult life.
9. Theo regrets testing out a new bread recipe because the resulting loaf tasted badly.
10. Before her teammates could stop her, Nina angry stomped out of the debate room.

Choose the correct adjective or adverb from the following options.

1. It's easy to recognize a flea bite on your skin because the small bite takes on an exceeding redder, flushed hue than otherwise neutral-colored flesh.
A. NO CHANGE
B. exceedingly ruddy
C. exceedingly redder
D. exceeding red
2. Whenever she engages with hotly debated issues in her government class, Sandra uses her passionate politics tone.
A. NO CHANGE
B. passionately politician
C. passionately politics
D. passionate political
3. VIP tickets for the event are reserved exclusive for patrons who donated to the city's non-profit organizations.
A. NO CHANGE
B. exclusively
C. more exclusive
D. most exclusive
4. The textbook contains corresponding English and Spanish paragraphs split by a horizontal, bold line that cuts every page in half.
Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. split by a horizontally bold
B. horizontally split by a bold
C. split by a bold, horizontal
D. split horizontally by a bold
5. Our playwriting director required those of us portraying historical events to read up on the historical background and avoid factually inaccuracies.
A. NO CHANGE
B. factually inaccurate
C. factual inaccuracies
D. factual inaccurate
6. Inside the steeple, grand arches support the weight of the iron bell.
A. NO CHANGE
B. grandly arches
C. grand arching
D. grandly arching
7. From a bird's eye view, it looks as though the plain is diagonally halved by a wide slough that runs from the south side of the town all the way to the river three miles south.
Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. halved by a wide, diagonal
B. halved by a widely diagonal
C. halved diagonally by a wide
D. halved in a diagonal direction by a wide
8. At the center of the castle, the king's ballroom is still brilliantly lit, opulent, and vibrant -- a reminder of the golden age during his reign.
A. NO CHANGE
B. brilliant lit
C. brilliantly light
D. brilliant lighter
9. The artist's new piece is a pictorially manifestation of her experience as an immigrant.
A. NO CHANGE
B. pictorial
C. visually pictorially
D. visually picture
10. Sweat secretions from eccrine glands wedged in epidermal ridges form fingerprints, which are uniquely to each individual and quite challenging to alter.
A. NO CHANGE
B. very uniquely
C. unique
D. most uniquely

ANSWER KEY

1. The newly hired courier **carefully** distributed the packages to houses on his route.
2. Unable to perform at Constitution Hall, a **disappointed** Marian Anderson could have never imagined that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt would arrange for her to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
3. Hurrying to the store **quickly** before the hurricane hit, Shelby gathered flashlights, batteries, and extra cases of bottled water.
4. Their new neighbors **elegantly** stepped out of the building to attend a black tie event.
5. After several years of not using her roller blades, Anita put them on and stumbled **clumsily** down the boardwalk.
6. In the event of an emergency, the airplane has built-in features, such as **bright** lights leading to the exits, designed to help passengers get off the plane safely.
7. No error. Loud is acceptable, although “loudly” would be preferred if the option is available. Some words have two forms that are technically adverbs, or don’t need an “ly” to be in adverb form: fast, slow, loud and soft are the most common ones that are both adverbs and adjectives. Slowly, loudly, and softly are also adverbs.
8. Poet Sylvia Plath was known to have undergone electroconvulsive therapy and was **clinically** depressed throughout her adult life.
9. Theo regrets testing out a new bread recipe because the resulting loaf tasted **bad**. Verbs such as seem and taste do not take adverbs, but rather adjectives.
10. Before her teammates could stop her, Nina **angrily** stomped out of the debate room.

ANSWER KEY

1. C 2. D 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. A 9. B 10. C

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. C “Exceedingly” replaces “exceeding” because the adverb form correctly describes the adjective “redder.”
2. D “Political” replaces “politics,” which is a noun, because an adjective must describe Sandra’s tone.
3. B “Exclusively” replaces “exclusive” because an adverb must describe the action of the VIP tickets being reserved.
4. A “Horizontally bold” cannot be an acceptable alternative because horizontally describes the adjective bold instead of retaining the meaning of the original phrase with both bold and horizontal as adjectives used to describe the line.
5. C “Factual” replaces “factually” because it must serve as an adjective to describe the noun inaccuracies.
6. A The sentence uses the adjective “grand” appropriately.
7. B “Widely diagonal” cannot be an acceptable alternative because widely describes the adjective diagonal instead of retaining the meaning of the original phrase with both wide and diagonal as adjectives used to describe the line.
8. A The sentence uses the adverb “brilliantly” appropriately.
9. B “Pictorial” replaces “pictorially” because it needs to be an adjective to describe the noun manifestation.
10. C “Unique” replaces “uniquely” because it must be an adjective to describe the noun fingerprints.