

Adverbs / Adjectives / Linking Verbs

The following is a mini-tutorial on the use of adverbs, adjectives, and linking verbs. After you have studied the tutorial, complete the associated exercises..

Adverbs

FORM [adjective + ly]

There are also irregular adverbs such as "well" and "fast."

USE 1 Adverbs can be used to modify verbs.

Examples:

- John walked **quickly** towards the door.
- Sally sat **silently** waiting for somebody else to speak first.

USE 2 Adverbs can be used to modify adjectives.

Examples:

- The redwood tree was **impressively** tall.
- The blouse was **outrageously** expensive.

USE 3 Adverbs can be used to modify other adverbs.

Examples:

- She spoke **extremely** confidently.
- The cheetah ran **incredibly** quickly.

Adjectives

FORM There are many different adjective endings including "-ive," "-ous," "-y," "-ful," "-ent" and many others. "Attractive," "envious," "lazy," "beautiful," and "intelligent" are all adjectives.

USE 1 Adjectives can be used to modify nouns.

Examples:

- Jack drives a **big** car.

- Sally writes **beautiful** poems.

USE 2 Adjectives often follow linking verbs (described below).

Examples:

- Max is **tall**.
- Sandra seems **mad**.

Linking Verbs

LIST: to appear , to be , to become , to feel , to get , to go , to grow , to look, to prove, to remain, to seem, to smell, to sound, to stay, to taste, to turn

USE The linking verbs above are often followed by adjectives instead of adverbs. In such situations, the adjective describes the subject of the sentence rather than the verb. Study the examples below to learn the difference.

Examples:

- Mary **seemed sad**. **Correct**
- Mary **seemed sadly**. **Not Correct**
- The cake **tastes good**. **Correct**
- The cake **tastes well**. **Not Correct**
- The train **is slow**. **Correct**
- The train **is slowly**. **Not Correct**
- James **grew tired**. **Correct**
- Sarah **remained calm**. **Correct**
- The milk **went bad**. **Correct**
- The seas **turned rough**. **Correct**
- The negotiations **proved pointless**. **Correct**

IMPORTANT!!! The verbs in the list above are not always used as linking verbs. Compare the examples below.

Examples:

- Sally **grew angry**.
"ANGRY" DESCRIBES SALLY. IN THIS SENTENCE, "TO GROW" IS BEING USED AS A LINKING VERB MEANING "TO BECOME."
- The plant **grew quickly**.
"QUICKLY" DOES NOT DESCRIBE THE PLANT, IT DESCRIBES THE MANNER IN WHICH IT GROWS. IN THIS SENTENCE, "TO GROW" IS NOT BEING USED AS A LINKING VERB.

Exercise 1

1. Tom is (slow)..... He works.....
2. Sue is a (careful)girl. She climbed up the ladder.....
3. The dog is (angry)..... It barks.....
4. He acted (excellent)..... He's anactor.
5. They learn English (easy)..... They think English is anlanguage.
6. Max is a (good)singer. He sings.....
7. It's (awful)cold today. The cold wind is.....
8. Dogs rely on their noses as they can smell (extreme / good)..... If that is true, why does dog food smell so (terrible).....?
9. The little boy looked (sad)..... I went over to comfort him and he looked at me.....
10. I tasted the soup (careful)but it tasted (wonderful).....

Exercise 2

“The three little pigs”

Fill in the correct form of the adjective or adverb.

1. Once upon a time there were three little pigs who wanted to see the world. When they left home, their mum gave them some advice: Whatever you do, do it the (good)you can.
2. So the three pigs wandered through the world and were the (happy)pigs you've ever seen.
3. They were playing (funny)games all summer long, but then came autumn and each pig wanted to build a house.
4. The first pig was not only the (small)but also the (lazy)of the pigs.
5. He (quick)built a house out of straw.
6. The second pig made his house out of wood which was a bit (difficult)than building a straw house.
7. The third pig followed his mum's advice and built a strong house out of bricks, which was the (difficult)house to build.
8. The pig worked very (hard)....., but finally got his house ready before winter.
9. During the cold winter months, the three little pigs lived (extreme)(good)in their houses.
10. They (regular)visited one another and had the (wonderful)time of their lives.
11. One night, however, a wolf came to the place where the three little pigs lived. It was the (horrible)wolf in the whole wide world.

12. Being (terrible)hungry, he went straight to the straw house.
13. "Let me in, little pig," the wolf shouted out (angry)....., "or I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!"
14. The pig didn't let him in, but as the house was made out of straw, the wolf blew it down (easy).....
15. The little pig ran to his brother's house as (fast)as he could. But the wolf followed him to the wooden house.
16. "Open up, little pigs," he shouted even (angry).....
17. Then he huffed and puffed and it didn't take him much (long)to blow the house down.
18. The two pigs (nervous)ran to their brother who lived in the brick house.
19. The wolf followed them (grim).....
20. "Open the door," he shouted (furious).....
21. As the pigs didn't open, the wolf huffed and puffed (heavy)..... But the stone house didn't fall down.
22. From all the huffing and puffing the wolf became even (hungry).....
23. With his last power he (slow)climbed up the house to get in through the chimney.
24. The pigs saw this and (hasty)lit a fire.
25. When the wolf climbed down the chimney, he fell into the fire which was (awful)hot.
26. He burnt his bum (bad)and ran away.
27. From that day on, the pigs had no more trouble with the wolf and they lived (happy)ever after.

Exercise 3

1. Jack spoke (confident/confidently)to the audience urging them to elect him president of the union. He knew he had a (good/well)chance of winning the election.
2. Melanie (quick/quickly)ate her lunch. She knew the meeting was (important/importantly)and she didn't want to be late.
3. Sophie lived in Thailand for several years. She speaks Thai (fluent/fluently)....., and she knows the culture very (good/well).....
4. The (hot/hotly)....., humid weather made it difficult to enjoy the tropical beach. Miriam seemed more (uncomfortable/uncomfortably)than relaxed.
5. The entrance examination is (extreme/extremely)challenging. Very few people make it into the the (prestigious/prestigiously)medical school.
6. This airline's (complete/completely)lack of organization is astounding. I have been very (patient/patiently)up to this point, but I am going to lose my temper if they don't find my baggage immediately.
7. The young girl sings (amazing/amazingly)well for someone her age. Her performance was (spectacular/spectacularly)to say the least.
8. The skies became surprisingly (dark/darkly)as the moon moved between the Earth and the Sun. As the eclipse progressed, the people in the streets stood (silent/silently)waiting for the sun's warmth to return.
9. Although Beth speaks (soft/softly)and seems quite

- (timid/timidly)....., she is the leading expert in her field. Don't underestimate her abilities.
10. After the medieval cathedral was (tragic/tragically)burnt down last year, the city (quick/quickly)rebuilt it stone for stone. It looks exactly the same as it did before the fire.
11. We (gradual/gradually)noticed changes in Diane's personality; she became (quiet/quietly)and withdrawn from her friends and family. We finally realized that we had to do something about her drinking problem before it was too late.
12. Nicole grew (tired/tiredly)from the hours of overtime at work. It became quite (obvious/obviously)that she needed a long vacation.
13. The tomato plants grew (quick/quickly)in the rich soil. Mrs. Ficara intended to use the home grown tomatoes to make her (delicious/deliciously)tempting lasagna.
14. Mr. Tanzer (generous/generously)donated \$1,000,000 to the law school's scholarship fund. With this money, they will be able to help low-income students cope with the (increasing/increasingly)cost of education.
15. Tim is (good/well)known for his sense of humor. Last Saturday, when he told the joke about the fireman and the school teacher, everybody there started laughing (uncontrollable/uncontrollably).....

Excercise 4

- English and German are(close/closely) related.
- There is still a very(close/closely) bond between mother and daughter.
- Jack is good at tennis and he always plays..... (fair/fairly)
- He did(fair/fairly) well in his examination.
- The decision to elect him as chairman was(just/justly) made.
- Did you catch the plane? - Yes, I got there(just/justly) in time.
- The athletes have been practising very(hard/hardly) for Athens.
- I could(hard/hardly) hear him at the back.
- Amnesty International says that several people are(wrong/wrongly) imprisoned.
- Something has gone(wrong/wrongly) with my car.
- I've(near/nearly) finished the book you gave me.
- My grandparents live quite..... (near/nearly)
- Fortunately, my best friend lives very(close/closely) by.
- I think you have spent too much money(late/lately).
- They always get home(late/lately) on weekends.
- Linda is a(pretty/prettily) nice girl.
- Look, isn't she dancing.....? (pretty/prettily)
- You'll have to hit the ball quite(high/highly) to get it over that net.
- The Concorde used to fly much(high/highly) than most other airplanes.
- He's very(high/highly) thought of within the company.
- Their son has been a(deep/deeply) disappointment to them.
- He is(deep/deeply) grateful for our support.
- He will come(short, shortly).
- Please be back at 6 o'clock(sharp/sharply).
- The father spoke(sharp/sharply) to the boy.
- The road bends(sharp/sharply) to the left.
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