



Adverbs

Adverbs are very diverse little descriptors that can modify a variety of different types of words: verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adverbs typically express manner, place, time, frequency, degree, level of certainty, etc. They can answer a variety of questions: how? in what way? when? where? and to what extent?

Adverbs that describe verbs: Adverbs describe in what way the verbs are completed, such as how someone walks or how someone speaks. Here are some examples:

Happily	Quickly	Carefully	Easily
Fondly	Kindly	Nicely	Sadly
Slowly	Never	Always	Seldom
Sometimes	Later	Barely	Again

Mary joyously told her friends that she had won the lottery.

José quickly realized that the man was funny.

Adverbs that describe adjectives: One less-commonly known function of adverbs is modifying adjectives. They can answer to what extent? or how? Here are a few examples:

Quite	Extremely	Not	More	Less
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The **quite** *beautiful* princess walked into the room.

He is **more** *talkative* than this brother.

Adverbs that describe other adverbs: Adverbs are such talented words that they can even describe themselves. Here are a few examples (though the ones in the previous example can be used as well):

Rather	Too	Almost	Often
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Jamie's coach told him he ran **too** slowly.

The police entered the bunker **almost** successfully.

How to use adverbs practically in daily life: Professors love words that add flavor to writing and speaking. In future papers, try adding in a few adverbs. Instead of just saying that the man walked, say that he walked purposefully. In future speeches or presentations, sprinkle a few of these wonderful words into it. Rather than saying that world hunger is just decreasing, say it is decreasing rapidly. It is also important to remember that too many adverbs just make the paper cluttered; finding a balance of descriptive but to the point is important for any writer. Finally, it is important to remember that some adverbs, such as very and really, are not considered academic and should be avoided when writing.