

What is an Adverb?

An adverb is a word that tells us more about a verb. It "qualifies" or "modifies" a verb (The man ran quickly). In the following examples, the adverb is in bold and the verb that it modifies is in italics.

- John speaks **loudly**. (How does John speak?)
- Afterwards she smoked a **cigarette**. (When did she smoke?)
- Mary lives **locally**. (Where does Mary live?)

But adverbs can also modify adjectives (Tara is really beautiful), or even other adverbs (It works very well). Look at these examples:

- Modify an adjective:
 - He is **really** handsome. (How handsome is he?)
 - That was **extremely** kind of you.
- Modify another adverb:
 - She drives **incredibly** slowly. (How slowly does she drive?)
 - He drives **extremely** fast.

Note that adverbs have other functions, too. They can:

- Modify a whole sentence: **Obviously**, I can't know everything.
- Modify a prepositional phrase: It's **immediately** inside the door.

Adverb Form

We make many adverbs by adding **-ly** to an adjective, for example:

- **quick** (adjective) > **quickly** (adverb)
- **careful** (adjective) > **carefully** (adverb)
- **beautiful** (adjective) > **beautifully** (adverb)

There are some basic rules about spelling for -ly adverbs. See the table below:

Adjective ending	do this	adjective	adverb
most adjectives	add -ly	quick nice sole careful	quickly nicely solely carefully
-able or -ible	change -e to -y	regrettable horrible	regrettably horribly

-y	change -y to -ily	happy	happily
-ic	change -ic to -ically	economic	economically

But not all words that end in -ly are adverbs. The words *friendly*, *lovely*, *lonely* and *neighbourly*, for example, are all adjectives.

And some adverbs have no particular form. Look at these examples:

- well, fast, very, never, always, often, still

Kinds of Adverbs

Here you can see the basic kinds of adverbs.

1- Adverbs of Manner

Adverbs of Manner tell us the manner or way in which something happens. They answer the question "how?". Adverbs of Manner mainly modify *verbs*.

- He *speaks* **slowly**. (How does he speak?)
- They *helped* us **cheerfully**. (How did they help us?)
- James Bond *drives* his cars **fast**. (How does James Bond drive his cars?)

We normally use Adverbs of Manner with **dynamic (action)** verbs, not with stative or state verbs.

- He ran fast. She came quickly. They worked happily.
- ~~She looked beautifully. It seems strangely. They are happily.~~

2- Adverbs of Place

Adverbs of Place tell us the place where something happens. They answer the question "where?". Adverbs of Place mainly modify *verbs*.

- Please *sit* **here**. (Where should I sit?)
- They *looked* **everywhere**. (Where did they look?)
- Two cars were *parked* **outside**. (Where were two cars parked?)

subject	verb(s)	direct object	adverb
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I	didn't see	him	here.
He	Stayed		behind.