

ADVERBS

Traditionally considered a single part of speech, adverbs perform a wide variety of functions, making it difficult to treat them as a single, unified category. However, spotting an adverb, especially one that ends in -ly is easy. Adverbs normally help paint a fuller picture by describing how something happens, such as

- When? She **always** arrives early.
- How? He drives **carefully**.
- Where? They go **everywhere** together.
- In what way? She eats **slowly**.
- To what extent? It is **terribly** hot.
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This function of providing more information about how something is done is called the adverbial function, and it may be accomplished by using adverbial clauses and adverbial phrases as well as by adverbs that stand alone.

There are many rules for using adverbs, and these rules often depend upon which type of adverb you are using.

Remember these basics and using adverbs to make sentences more meaningful will be easier for you.

- Adverbs can always be used to modify verbs.
- Notice that the second of these two sentences is much more interesting simply because it contains an adverb:
- **The dog ran.** (You can picture a dog running, but you don't really know much more about the scene.)
- The dog ran **excitedly**. (You can picture a dog running, wagging its tail, panting happily, and looking glad to see its owner. You can paint a much more interesting picture in your head when you know how or why the dog is running.)
- **Adverbs are often formed by adding the letters “-ly” to adjectives.** This makes it very easy to identify adverbs in sentences. There are many exceptions to this rule; **everywhere, nowhere, and upstairs are a few examples.**
- An adverb can be used to **modify an adjective and intensify the meaning** it conveys.
- For example:
- **He plays tennis well.** (He knows how to play tennis and sometimes he wins.)
- He plays tennis **extremely** well. (He knows how to play tennis so well that he wins often.)