

What Is an Adverb?

An adverb can be added to a verb to modify its meaning. Usually, an adverb tells you when, where, how, in what manner, or to what extent an action is performed.

Many adverbs end in **ly** — particularly those that are used to express how an action is performed.

Although many adverbs end **ly**, lots do not, e.g., fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, and there.

Examples:

- Anita placed the vase carefully on the shelf.

(The word *carefully* is an adverb. It shows how the vase was placed.)

- Tara walks gracefully.

(The word *gracefully* is an adverb. It modifies the verb *to walk*.)

- He runs fast.

(The word *fast* is an adverb. It modifies the verb *to run*.)

- You can set your watch by him. He always leaves at 5 o'clock.

(The word *always* is an adverb. It modifies the verb *to leave*.)

- The dinner guests arrived early. (*early* modifies *to arrive*)
- She sometimes helps us. (*sometimes* modifies *to help*)
- I am the only person in the world I should like to know thoroughly.
(Oscar Wilde) (*thoroughly* modifies *to know*)

Types of Adverbs

Although there are thousands of adverbs, each adverb can usually be categorized in one of the following groupings:

Adverbs of Time

- Press the button now. (*now* - adverb of time)
- I have never been. (*never* - adverb of time)
- I tell him daily. (*daily* - adverb of time)

Adverbs of Place

- Daisies grow everywhere. (*everywhere* - adverb of place)
- I did not put it there. (*there* - adverb of place)

Adverbs of Manner

- He passed the test easily. (*easily* - adverb of manner)
- The lion crawled stealthily. (*stealthily* - adverb of manner)

Adverbs of Degree

- That is the farthest I have ever jumped. (*farthest* - adverb of degree)
- He boxed more cleverly. (*more cleverly* - adverb of degree and manner.)

Credit to: <https://www.grammar-monster.com/lessons/adverbs.htm>



Adverbs Can Modify Adjectives and Other Adverbs

Although the term *adverb* implies that they are only used with verbs, adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs. For example:

- The horridly grotesque gargoyle was undamaged by the debris. (The adverb *horridly* modifies the adjective *grotesque*.)
- Peter had an extremely ashen face. (The adverb *extremely* modifies the adjective *ashen*.)
- Badly trained dogs that fail the test will become pets. (The adverb *badly* modifies the adjective *trained*.) (Note: The adjective *trained* is an adjective formed from the verb *to train*. It is called a participle.)
- She wore a beautifully designed dress. (The adverb *beautifully* modifies the adjective *designed*.)
- Peter Jackson finished his assignment remarkably quickly. (The adverb *quickly* modifies the verb *to finish*. The adverb *remarkably* modifies the adverb *quickly*.)

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