

An **adverb** is a word that modifies (qualifies or limits) a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

- ▶ Many adverbs end in *-ly*.
- ▶ Adverbs answer any of these four questions: *Where? When? How? To what extent?*
- ▶ Adverbs make writing more specific and more exact.
- ▶ Here are some adverbs that do not end in *-ly*:

again	almost	alone	already	also
always	away	even	ever	here
just	later	never	not	now
nowhere	often	perhaps	quite	rather
seldom	so	sometimes	somewhat	somewhere
soon	then	there	today	too
very	yesterday	yet		

Adverbs modify verbs:

John ate *quickly*. (*How* did he eat?)

I walk *there*. (*Where* did I walk?)

Ashleigh will eat *soon*. (*When* will Ashleigh eat?)

Adverbs modify adjectives:

Rex is *very* happy. (*Very* modifies the adjective *happy* and answers the question, *To what extent?*)

The program was *too* unrealistic. (*Too* modifies the adjective *unrealistic* and answers the question, *To what extent?*)

Adverbs modify other adverbs:

Warren walks *too* quickly. (*Too* modifies the adverb *quickly* and answers the question, *How quickly?*)

He moved *rather* recently. (*Rather* modifies the adverb *recently* and answers the question, *How recently?*)

Adverbs (Continued)


When is a word an adjective, and when is it an adjective? Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns. Adverbs do not. Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adjectives do not.

Helen has a *yearly* membership at the local health club. (*Yearly* is an adjective since it modifies the noun *membership* and tells *which* membership.)

Helen contributes *yearly*. (*Yearly* is an adverb since it modifies the verb *contributes* and answers the question, *When does Helen contribute?*)

Mike arrived *late*. (*Late* is an adverb since it tells *when* Mike arrived.)

The *late* delivery cut down on sales in the supermarket. (*Late* is an adjective because it tells *which* delivery.)

 **WRITING TIP** *Adverbs help readers visualize actions better. Select the precise adverb to help your reader see more clearly. Slowly might not be as accurate as gradually, leisurely, or unhurriedly. Use a dictionary or thesaurus for help.*