

Adjectives & Adverbs

Quickly and seriously are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are formed from an adjective + -ly:

<i>adjective:</i>	quick	serious	careful	quiet	heavy	bad
<i>adverb:</i>	quickly	seriously	carefully	quietly	heavily	badly

Not all words ending in -ly are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in -ly too, for example:

friendly lively elderly lonely silly lovely

Adjective or adverb?

Adjectives (quick/careful etc.) tell us about a *noun* (somebody or something). We use adjectives before nouns:

- ☐ Sam is a **careful** driver.
(*not* a carefully driver)
- ☐ We didn't go out because of the **heavy** rain.

Adverbs (quickly/carefully etc.) tell us about a *verb* (*how* somebody does something or *how* something happens):

- ☐ Sam **drove carefully** along the narrow road. (*not* drove careful)
- ☐ We didn't go out because it was **raining heavily**. (*not* raining heavy)

Compare:

- ☐ She speaks **perfect English**.
adjective + noun

- ☐ She speaks English **perfectly**.
verb + noun + adverb

Exercise 1

Put in the correct word

- Two people were serious/**seriously** injured in the accident
- The driver of the car had **serious**/seriously injuries
- I think you behaved very selfish/**selfishly**
- Rose is terrible/**terribly** upset about losing her job
- There was a **sudden**/suddenly change in the weather
- Everybody at the party was colourful/**colourfully** dressed
- Linda likes wearing **colourful**/colourfully clothes
- Liz fell and hurt herself quite bad/**badly**
- Joe says he didn't do well at school because he was bad/**badly** taught
- Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look **safe**/safely

Exercise 2

Complete each sentence using a word below. Sometimes you need the adjective and sometimes the adverb

Careful(ly) , complete(ly), continuous(ly), financial(ly), fluent(ly), happy(ly), nervous(ly), perfect(ly), quick(ly), special(ly)

1. Our holiday was too short. The time passed very **quickly**
2. Steve doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always **careful**
3. Sue works **continuously**. She never seems to stop
4. Rachel and Patrick are very **happily** married
5. Maria's English is very **fluent** although she makes quite a lot of mistakes
6. I cooked this meal **specially** for you so I hope you like it
7. Everything was very quiet. There was **complete** silence
8. I tried on the shoes and they fitted me **perfectly**
9. Do you usually feel **nervous** before examinations?
10. I'd like to buy a car, but it's **financially** impossible for me at the moment

Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is well:

- ☐ Your English is **good**. *but* You speak English **well**.
- ☐ Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (not good) with *past participles* (dressed/known etc.):

- well-dressed well-known well-educated well-paid**
- ☐ Gary's father is a **well-known** writer.

But **well** is also an adjective with the meaning 'in good health':

- ☐ 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.'

Exercise 3

Put in good or well

1. I play tennis but I'm not very **good**
2. Your exam results were very **good**
3. You **did** well in your exams
4. The weather was **good** while we were on holiday
5. I didn't sleep **well** last night
6. How are you? Are you **well**?
7. Lucy speaks German very **well**
8. Lucy's German is very **good**
9. Our new business isn't doing very **well** at the moment
10. I like your hat. It looks **good** on you

Exercise 4

- ◆ Some adverbs have either a totally different form or the same form as the adjective.

Adjective		Adverb
good	→	well
fast	→	fast
hard	→	hard
early	→	early
late	→	late

- ◆ Some adverbs have the same form as adjectives. These include: **hard, fast, high, low, deep, early, late, long, near, straight, right, wrong.**
e.g. This is a **fast** car. (adjective)
George **drives fast**. (adverb)

- ◆ There is a difference in meaning between the following pairs of adverbs:

- She tried **hard** but she failed. (hard = with effort)
He can **hardly** see without his glasses. (hardly = scarcely)
- Jessica lives quite **near**. (near = close)
They **nearly** missed the bus. (nearly = almost)
- Tim arrived **late**. (late = not early)
She's been going out a lot **late**. (late = recently)
- The kite rose **high** in the sky. (high = at a high level)
He's **highly** respectable. (highly = very)
- You can visit the museum **free**. (free = without charge)
EU citizens can travel **freely** within Europe. (freely = without restraint)

1. Jack near/**nearly** crashed his car yesterday
2. The prisoners can move around free/**freely**
3. I got this pen **free**/freely with a magazine
4. His story sounds high/**highly** unlikely
5. We could see the bird's nest **high**/highly up in the tree
6. Roger was **late**/late for work every day last week
7. I haven't been feeling very well late/**late**
8. He tried **hard**/hardly to solve the problem, but he couldn't do it
9. The music was so loud that I could hard/**hardly** hear what he was saying
10. She lives very **near**/nearly to the school

Exercise 5

<http://englishtests.ucoz.com/GrammarTests/11122017grammarintDegreesOfComparison.htm>