

# 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 ...
2. Steve doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always...
3. Sue works ... She never seems to stop
4. Rachel and Patrick are very ... married
5. Maria's English is very ... although she makes quite a lot of mistakes
6. I cooked this meal ... for you so I hope you like it
7. Everything was very quiet. There was ... silence
8. I tried on the shoes and they fitted me ...
9. Do you usually feel ... before examinations?
10. I'd like to buy a car, but it's ... 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 ...
2. Your exam results were very...
3. You did ... in your exams
4. The weather was ... while we were on holiday
5. I didn't sleep ... last night
6. How are you? Are you ...?
7. Lucy speaks German very ...
8. Lucy's German is very ...
9. Our new business isn't doing very ... at the moment
10. I like your hat. It looks ... 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>