

Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time passed very **quickly**.
- Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident.

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 |

For spelling, see **Appendix 6**.

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

friendly **lively** **elderly** **lonely** **silly** **lovely**

B

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

We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially **be**, and also **look/feel/sound** etc.

Compare:

- Please **be quiet**.
- I was disappointed that my exam results **were so bad**.
- Why do you always **look so serious**?
- I **feel happy**.

- Please **speak quietly**.
- I was unhappy that I **did so badly** in the exam. (*not* did so bad)
- Why do you never **take me seriously**?
- The children were **playing happily**.

C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

reasonably cheap (*adverb + adjective*)
terribly sorry (*adverb + adjective*)
incredibly quickly (*adverb + adverb*)

- It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* terrible sorry)
- Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- The exam was **surprisingly easy**.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (**injured/organised/written** etc.):

- Two people were **seriously injured** in the accident. (*not* serious injured)
- The meeting was **badly organised**.

Exercises

100.1 Complete each sentence with an adverb. The first letters of the adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining he avily .
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very ba.....
- 3 I didn't have any problems finding a place to live. I found a flat quite ea.....
- 4 We had to wait for a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited pat.....
- 5 Nobody knew Steve was coming to see us. He arrived unex.....
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis reg.....
- 7 I don't speak French very well, but I can understand per..... if people speak sl..... and cl.....

100.2 Put in the correct word.

- 1 Two people were seriously injured in the accident. (serious / seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had serious injuries. (serious / seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very (selfish / selfishly)
- 4 Tanya is upset about losing her job. (terrible / terribly)
- 5 There was a change in the weather. (sudden / suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the carnival was dressed. (colourful / colourfully)
- 7 Linda usually wears clothes. (colourful / colourfully)
- 8 Liz fell and hurt herself really (bad / badly)
- 9 Joe says he didn't do well at school because he was taught. (bad / badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look (safe / safely)

100.3 Complete each sentence using a word from the box. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| careful(ly) | complete(ly) | continuous(ly) | financial(ly) | fluent(ly) |
| happy/happily | 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
- 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 exams?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car, but it's impossible for me at the moment.

100.4 Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------------|---------|
| absolutely | badly | completely | changed | cheap | damaged |
| reasonably | seriously | slightly | enormous | ill | long |
| unnecessarily | unusually | | planned | quiet | |

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive, but it was reasonably cheap .
- 2 Will's mother is in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only
- 5 The children are normally very lively, but they're today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had
- 7 The movie was It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was