

Forming Adverbs

Introduction

1) An adverb is a word or set of words that modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Usually adverbs modify verbs, telling us how, how often, when, or where something was done.

*We walked **really slowly**.*

2) In most cases, an adverb is formed by adding *-ly* to an adjective.

*slow – **slowly***

Adverbs formed from adjectives ending in *-l* have double *l*.

*careful – **carefully***

If the adjective ends in *-y*, replace the *y* with *i* and add *-ly*

*easy – **easily***

If the adjective ends in *-able*, *-ible*, or *-le*, replace the *-e* with *-y*.

*probable – **probably**, terrible – **terribly**, gentle – **gently***

If the adjective ends in *-ic*, add *-ally*. There is an exception: *public – publicly*.

*economic – **economically***

Adjectives that end in *-ly*, such as *friendly* or *lively*, can't be made into adverbs by adding *-ly*. We can use 'in a friendly way/manner' instead.

*He talked to me **in a friendly manner**.*

The following adverbs have the same form as the adjectives: *early*, *fast*, *hard*, *high*, *late*, *near*, *straight*, *wrong*.

*The train is very **fast**. (adjective)*

*The train goes **fast**. (adverb)*

Note that the adverb *well* corresponds to the adjective *good*.

*Tom is a **good** student. He studies **well**.*

Note that the adverb *hardly* is not related to the meaning of hard. The adverb *hardly* has the meaning 'almost not'.

***Hardly** anyone writes to me these days. = Almost no one writes to me these days.*

*Susan ate **hardly** anything. = Susan ate almost nothing.*

Short Story Dialogue

– I miss Ann **terribly!** We **hardly ever** see her.

– I understand you **completely**. I haven't seen her **for ages**. At least she **often** calls us.

– Yeah, she doesn't forget calling us **regularly**.

– **Especially** with her job – she works **very hard!** She told me **yesterday** that she had to work **overtime**. She must be **so** tired!

– I'll try to persuade her to take a vacation and come here. She **definitely** needs to rest to work **productively**.

Independent Practice - Forming Adverbs

1) Fill in the gaps with the adverbs from the box.

<i>hard</i>	<i>happily</i>	<i>hardly</i>	<i>well</i>	<i>successfully</i>
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- a. Alan dances very and never steps on people's feet.
- b. I can believe it!
- c. And they lived ever after.
- d. We completed the course
- e. Susan worked very and was promoted in February.

2) Rewrite each sentence so that it has a similar meaning and contains the adverb in brackets.

a. Sam didn't sleep well. (badly)
b. Jane lives abroad so her friends almost never see her. (hardly ever)
c. Lucy's parents are slow walkers. (slowly)
d. The couple lived together and were happy. (happily)
e. Philip is ill. (well)

Independent Practice: Answers - Forming Adverbs

1) Fill in the gaps with the adverbs from the box.

- a. Alan dances very **well** and never steps on people's feet.
- b. I can **hardly** believe it!
- c. And they lived **happily** ever after.
- d. We completed the course **successfully**.
- e. Susan worked very **hard** and was promoted in February.

2) Rewrite each sentence so that it has a similar meaning and contains the adverb in brackets.

- a. Sam slept **badly**.
- b. Jane lives abroad so her friends **hardly ever** see her.
- c. Lucy's parents walk **slowly**.
- d. The couple lived **happily** together.
- e. Philip isn't feeling **well**.