

## WHAT IS AN ADVERB?

Every adverb modifies one of these three parts of speech:

- Verb - Adjective - Adverb

Adverbs answer **where**, **when**, and **how** (or **how much**). If you know the “5 Ws and 1 H” questions in the standard order, you might remember it this way: Skip two; say two; skip one; say one.

~~Who?~~ ~~What?~~ Where? When? ~~Why?~~ How?

### Useful Things to Know

- Many adverbs end in *-ly*, but not all do, and not all *-ly* words are adverbs.
- Some words are always adverbs in any sentence. Some common ones to memorize are “not,” “never,” “too,” and “very.”

### Adverbs That Modify Verbs

When checking for adverbs, start with the verb. Are there any words that answer **where**, **when**, or **how** / **how much** for the verb?

|         |    |      |     |                   |
|---------|----|------|-----|-------------------|
|         | PN | V    | V   | ADV               |
| (Where) | I  | will | run | <b>there</b> .    |
| (When)  | I  | will | run | <b>tomorrow</b> . |
| (How)   | I  | will | run | <b>fast</b> .     |

|             |                   |    |      |     |              |               |
|-------------|-------------------|----|------|-----|--------------|---------------|
|             | ADV               | PN | V    | V   | ADV          | ADV           |
| (All Three) | <b>Tomorrow</b> , | I  | will | run | <b>there</b> | <b>fast</b> . |

Often, adverbs can change position in the sentence and still modify the same word.

**Quickly**, I will run.                      I will run **quickly**.                      I will **quickly** run.

### Adverbs That Modify Adjectives

After checking for adverbs that modify the verb, look for adverbs that modify adjectives.

- Start with the first adjective in the sentence. (Skip “a,” “an” and “the,” though.) Does any word (or words) answer **how** for that adjective? (Adverbs can only answer **how** for adjectives.)
- Continue in the same way with all of the adjectives.

|       |     |               |     |     |         |
|-------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|---------|
|       | ADJ | ADV           | ADJ | N   | V       |
| (How) | The | <b>really</b> | big | dog | howled. |

The word “big” is an ADJECTIVE, and the word “really” is an ADVERB. “Really” answers **how big** the dog is.

### Adverbs That Modify Other Adverbs

After checking for adverbs that modify the verb and the adjectives, look for adverbs that modify the adverbs you have found so far.

- Start with the first adverb you found. Do any word or words answer **how** (or **how much**) for that adverb? (Adverbs can only answer **how** or **how much** for other adverbs.)

|            |     |     |               |       |         |
|------------|-----|-----|---------------|-------|---------|
|            | ADJ | N   | ADV           | ADV   | V       |
| (How Much) | The | dog | <b>almost</b> | never | howled. |

The word “never” is an ADVERB (it tells **when** for the verb “howled”), and so is the word “almost,” since “almost” tells **how much** the dog *never* howled.

