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## **RULES FOR ADVERBS**

### **What do Adverbs modify?**

An adverb is a word that modifies or describes:

• A verb	⇒ he sings loudly
• An adjective	⇒ very tall
• Another adverb	⇒ ended too quickly
• Or even a whole sentence	⇒ Fortunately, I had brought an umbrella.

Adverbs often end in -ly, but some look exactly the same as their adjective counterparts. Take for example, fast, quick, bad, good, and so on.

#### **Examples**

1. Tom Longboat did not run badly.
2. Tom is very tall.
3. The race finished too quickly.

#### **Rule # 1**

Many adverbs end in -ly, but many do not. Generally, if a word can have -ly added to its adjective form, place it there to form an adverb.

#### **Examples**

1. She thinks quick/quickly. => How does she think? Quickly.
2. She is a quick/quickly thinker. => Quick is an adjective describing thinker, so no -ly is attached.
3. She thinks fast/fastly. => Fast answers the question how, so it is an adverb. But fast never has -ly attached to it

#### **Rule # 2**

Adverbs that answer the question 'how' sometimes cause grammatical problems. It can be a challenge to determine if -ly should be attached.

Avoid the trap of -ly with linking verbs such as taste, smell, look, feel, which pertain to the senses. Adverbs are often misplaced in such sentences, which require adjectives instead.

#### **Examples:**

1. Roses smell sweet/sweetly => In this case, smell is a linking verb—which requires an adjective to modify roses—so no -ly
2. The woman looked angry/angrily to us => Did the woman look with her eyes, or are we

describing her appearance? We are describing her appearance (she appeared angry), so no -ly

3. The woman looked angry/angrily at the paint splotches. => Here the woman actively looked (used her eyes), so the -ly is added.
4. She feels bad/badly about the news. => She is not feeling with fingers, so no -ly.

### Rule # 3

The word good is an adjective, whose adverb equivalent is well.

#### Examples:

1. You did a good job. => Good describes the job.
2. You smell good today. => Good describes your fragrance, not how you smell with your nose, so using the adjective is correct.
3. You smell well for someone with a cold. => You are actively smelling with your nose here, so use the adverb.

### Rule # 4

The word well can be an adjective, too. When referring to health, we often use well rather than good.

#### Examples:

1. You do not look well today.
2. I don't feel well, either.

### Rule # 5

Adjectives come in three forms, also called degrees. An adjective in its normal or usual form is called a positive degree adjective. A common error in using adjectives and adverbs arises from using the wrong form of comparison.

#### Examples:

1. She is the cleverer of the two women (never cleverest).

#### Point to Remember

**The word cleverest is what is called the superlative form of clever. Use it only when comparing three or more things. For example - She is the cleverest of them all.**

Incorrect Use	• Chocolate or vanilla: which do you like best?
Correct Use	• Chocolate or vanilla: which do you like better?

## Rule # 6

There are also three degrees of adverbs. In formal usage, do not drop the -ly from an adverb when using the comparative form.

### Examples:

<b>Incorrect Use</b>	• Talk quieter.
<b>Correct Use</b>	• Talk more quietly.

<b>Incorrect Use</b>	• She spoke quicker than he did.
<b>Correct Use</b>	• She spoke more quickly than he did.

## Rule # 7

When this, that, these, and those are followed by a noun, they are adjectives. When they appear without a noun following them, they are pronouns.

### Examples:

1. This house is for sale. => This is an adjective and a pronoun as well.

## Rule # 8

Use of 'Much' and 'Very' - 'Much' qualifies adjectives or adverbs in the comparative degree; 'very' in the positive.

### Examples:

1. The air is much hotter today than yesterday.
2. This book is much heavier than that.
3. This book is very useful.
4. He spoke very loudly.

## Rule # 9

Use of hard, hardly, scarce, scarcely.

### Examples:

1. **Hard** – as an adverb means 'Diligently'. It usually follows the verb. For example,
  - He works hard to make both ends meet.
  - Our team played hard in Pakistan.
  - I tried hard to succeed.

2. **Hardly** - When used as an adverb means scarcely, barely. It conveys a negative meaning/ Hardly and scarcely are followed by when. For example,
  - Hardly (Scarcely) had he reached the station, when the train left.
3. **Scarce** - As an adjective means 'not plentiful, hard to find, not often found. For example,
  - Coal has become scarce in England.
4. **Scarcely** – as an adverb is almost synonymous to 'Hardly'. For example,
  - I can scarcely hear you.
  - They have scarcely enough to look after their children

### Rule # 10

Adverb 'As' is used with the following verbs - Regard, Describe, define, treat, view, know.

Adverb 'As' is not used with the following verbs - Name, elect, think, consider, call, appoint, make, choose.

#### Examples:

1. I regard him as my mentor.
2. Biology is defined as the study of organisms.

### Rule # 11

Else' should be followed by 'but'

#### Examples

<b>Incorrect</b>	• It is nothing else than pride.
<b>Correct</b>	• It is nothing else but pride.

<b>Incorrect</b>	• You do nothing else except feel sorry for yourself.
<b>Correct</b>	• You do nothing else but feel sorry for yourself.



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