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Adverbs

The festival reporters





Grammar at a glance

When you want to...	Form to use	Worked example
Show manner	action + how	Ravi lowered the tray gently.
Give frequency or time	how often / when	We usually practise. We return soon.
Change degree	degree word + adjective	The jar is almost full. Some space remains.
Distinguish lookalikes	hard / hardly	She worked hard. She hardly rested.

SELECT A ROW TO OPEN ITS LESSON

ADVERBS

Describe an action, not just a person



Lily writes “Sam carried the pot.” Readers know what he did, but not how. Add a useful detail, then check whether it describes the action or the person.

An adverb of manner tells how something happens. In “Sam answered politely”, politely describes the answering.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Name the action	Sam carried the pot.	We know what Sam did, but the sentence does not say how he did it.
Add how	Sam carried the pot carefully.	Carefully describes the way he carried it. It modifies the verb carried.
Describe the person	Sam is a careful gardener.	Careful describes the noun gardener. It is an adjective, not an adverb here.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Sam carefully carried the pot. Sam carried the pot carefully. Both are possible.

Does every word ending in ly describe an action?

No. Friendly is usually an adjective, while fast can be an adverb without ly. Identify the word’s job in its sentence.

YOUR TURN

“Sam answered the question ___.”

polite / politely

> **Answer • politely**
> Politely describes answered.

ADVERBS

When, where and how often

The report mixes yesterday's visitors with today's helpers. Some notes say a job happens every day; others say it happened once. Keep the timing and frequency accurate.

Adverbs can tell when, where or how often. Ask which question the word answers in this sentence.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
When	Lily arrived yesterday.	Yesterday tells us when she arrived.
Where	Lily waited outside.	Outside tells us where she waited.
How often	Lily usually arrives early.	Usually describes frequency. It does not mean every single time.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

They sometimes visit. This does not mean they always visit.

Does usually mean exactly four out of five in every context?

No. It means on most occasions in ordinary use, without one universal numerical cutoff. Here the explicit log makes the comparison clear.

YOUR TURN

"We will return soon." Soon tells us what?

How loudly / When

> Answer • When
> Soon gives a time meaning.

ADVERBS

How strong is the description?



An excited reporter calls everything “too wonderful.” Lily wants to say what she actually means.

An adverb of degree changes the strength or extent of a description. Almost finished means some work remains.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
A description	The basket is heavy.	Heavy describes the basket.
A stronger description	The basket is very heavy.	Very modifies the adjective heavy. An adverb can modify an adjective, not just a verb.
Beyond a useful limit	The basket is too heavy for Sam to lift.	Too means the weight exceeds a limit for this purpose. It is not just another word for very.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

The room is very warm. The handle is too hot to touch.

Does too simply mean a stronger very?

No. Too expresses excess relative to a standard or purpose. A very bright room may be welcome; too bright to sleep explains a problem for sleeping.

YOUR TURN

“The sign is almost finished.” Is all the work done?

No, a little remains. / Yes, it is completely done.

> Answer • No, a little remains.
> Almost means nearly.

ADVERBS

Good, well, hard and hardly

One draft says the team “hardly worked,” but they spent hours preparing. Another says Lily “sang good.” Repair the report without changing what really happened.

Read the meaning as well as the ending. Hard describes effort in “works hard”. Hardly means almost not.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Describe the singer	Lily is a good singer.	Good is an adjective describing the noun singer.
Describe the performance	Lily sang well.	Well is the usual adverb describing how she sang.
A misleading ending	Sam worked hard. Sam hardly worked.	Hard means with much effort here. Hardly means almost not at all. Adding -ly changes the meaning.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Noun description	Action description	Much effort	Almost no work
a good singer	sings well	worked hard	hardly worked

Is an ly ending enough to identify meaning or word class?

No. Some adverbs lack ly and some adjectives have it. Use the sentence structure and meaning, not spelling alone.

YOUR TURN

“She is a ___ dancer.”

well / good

> Answer • good
> Good describes the noun dancer.

ONE LAST CHALLENGE

Can one word direct the actor?

An actor must close a door without disturbing a sleeping cat. Add an adverb to the stage direction.



A POSSIBLE ANSWER

Close the door gently.

Gently describes how the actor should move the door.

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