

**Definition of an Adverb**

An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

**Adverbs Modify Verbs**

Examples:

The student **typed**.

*"Typed" is a verb.*

The student typed **fast**.  
*"typed"*.

*"Fast" is an adverb modifying*

The student typed **yesterday**.  
*"typed"*.

*"Yesterday" is an adverb modifying*

The student typed **slowly**.  
*"typed"*.

*"Slowly" is an adverb modifying*

**Exercise A**

Underline the adverbs in the following sentences:

1. The birds sang sweetly.
2. The man spoke slowly.
3. The children played happily.
4. The boy wrote his exercise badly.
5. The woodcutter looked sadly at the river.
6. When he saw his axe, he smiled happily.
7. Every soldier fought bravely.
8. You must work hard if you want to do this exercise correctly.
9. Richard ate his breakfast fast and then ran quickly to school.
10. The school team played well and won its game easily.
11. Come here.
12. Did you go there?
13. I did the work yesterday.
14. You did it well; you must do it carefully now.
15. The boy shouted suddenly, "The car is here!"
16. The door opened slowly and the king walked in.
17. George worked hard and did the exercise well today.
18. The child opened the door of the cage and the bird flew out.

19. He knew the bird would fly away.
20. You came here late today; you must come early tomorrow.

### Adverbs Also Modify Adjectives

Examples:

The is an **interesting** book.  
*"Interesting" is an adjective modifying the noun "book"*

This is a **very** interesting book.  
*"Very" is an adverb modifying "interesting".*

This is an **extremely** interesting book.  
*"Extremely" is an adverb modifying "interesting".*

This is a **really** interesting book.  
*"Really" is an adverb modifying "interesting".*

The music is **loud**.  
*This is loud music. "Loud" is an adjective modifying the noun "music".*

The music is **too** loud.  
*"Too" is an adverb modifying "loud".*

The music is **somewhat** loud.  
*"Somewhat" is an adverb modifying "loud".*

### Exercise B

Circle the adverbs in the following sentences. Underline the adjective that they modify:

1. Tom did a very difficult exercise.
2. That hat is too big for you.
3. Yes, it is rather large.
4. Dinner is almost ready.
5. This book is more interesting than that one.
6. What is the most interesting book you have ever read?
7. Many men offered rather unfair treatment to women.
8. Aspasia of Milan was a very important exception.
9. She was a most remarkable woman.
10. Socrates is one of the more familiar names.
11. Too few people remember Aspasia's name.
12. She was a justly famous teacher.

13. She was a remarkable intelligent person.
14. She had an unusually fine feel for politics.
15. This exercise is not particularly difficult.

### Adverbs Also Modify Other Adverbs

Examples:

The student reads **slowly**.  
*"Slowly" is an adverb modifying the verb "reads".*

The student reads **very** slowly.  
*"Very" is an adverb modifying "slowly".*

The student reads **most** slowly.  
*"Most" is an adverb modifying "slowly".*

The student reads **extremely** slowly.  
*"Extremely" is an adverb modifying "slowly".*

### Exercise C

Circle the adverbs which modify other adverbs in the following sentences.  
Underline the adverbs which they modify.

1. John speaks French very well.
2. I think he answered that question extremely cleverly.
3. He drove the car rather fast in that busy street
4. We are nearly there now.
5. She spoke quite often with the great men of Athens.
6. In her day, Aspasia was known nearly everywhere.
7. Why is she so seldom mentioned today?
8. Aspasia wrote speeches extremely well.
9. He speaks unusually poorly.
10. The parts were played too slowly.

**Negative words are adverbs when they modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs.**

Examples:

I will **not** go.  
*"Not" is an adverb, modifying the verb "will go".*

I am **not** ready.  
*"Not" is an adverb, modifying the adjective "ready".*

He is **not** very tired.

*"Not" is an adverb, modifying the adverb "very".*

### Exercise D

In the following sentences, underline the negative word and circle the verb, adjective, or adverb which it modifies.

1. John will never run another marathon.
2. The horse was not prepared to jump the fence.
3. She can't understand the problem.
4. I will accept no other answer.
5. The cup was scarcely empty before the waitress picked it up.
6. I will not work on such a sunny day.

### Answer Key Adverbs

(Words that you were asked to circle are shown in answer key in *italics*.)

### Exercise A

1. sweetly
2. slowly
3. happily
4. badly
5. sadly
6. happily
7. bravely
8. hard, correctly
9. fast, then, quickly
10. well, easily
11. here
12. there
13. yesterday
14. well, carefully, now
15. suddenly, here
16. slowly, in
17. hard, well, today
18. out
19. away
20. here, late, today, early, tomorrow

### Exercise B

1. *Very*, difficult
2. *Too*, big

3. *rather*, large
4. *almost*, ready
5. *more*, interesting
6. *most*, interesting, ever
7. *rather*, unfair
8. *very*, important
9. *most*, remarkable
10. *more*, familiar
11. *too*, few
12. *justly*, famous
13. *remarkably*, intelligent
14. *unusually*, fine
15. *not*, *particularly*, difficult

### Exercise C

1. *very*, well
2. *extremely*, cleverly
3. *rather*, fast
4. *nearly*, there
5. *quite*, often
6. *nearly*, everywhere
7. *so*, seldom
8. *extremely*, well
9. *unusually*, poorly
10. *too*, slowly

### Exercise D

1. never *will run*
2. not *was prepared*
3. can't *understand*
4. no *other*
5. scarcely *empty*
6. not *will work*