

## Parts of Speech: Adjectives and Adverbs

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You will become better at knowing and using different parts of speech. This activity will help you improve your use of adjectives and adverbs, an important component of interesting writing. We'll spend more time with adjectives than adverbs.

### Why are we doing this?

- ◆ Parts of speech (verb, noun, adjective, etc.) are the “tools of the trade” in writing. Not knowing what they are and how to identify and use them is like being a plumber and not knowing what a pipe and a faucet are.
- ◆ As you write in this course, the teacher will talk to you about the verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and other parts of speech you use in your writing. If you don't know what he's talking about, you won't be able to improve your writing.

### When you're finished, you will be able to:

- ◆ Identify adjectives and adverbs in sentences.
- ◆ Improve the effectiveness of your writing by using adjectives & adverbs.

### What you will do:

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1. Complete this entire packet and turn in.
2. Complete the homework assignment for this packet.

## Part of speech: ADJECTIVE



As usual, it sounds simple, but can get interesting because of the way English works. Here's the "official" definition:

**An adjective is a word that describes a noun.**

Examples: big, small, red, beautiful, patient, strong, weak, clear, opaque, malicious, benevolent, ridiculous, easy, difficult, educated, intelligent, powerful, admired, successful, happy.

### LEARNING PLAN

Using colorful adjectives can be one of the most effective ways to improve your writing. Sorry to break the news to you, but if you write without adjectives, your writing is probably pretty boring.

Here's an example of a story without any adjectives:

I have a brother. He wants to be a lawyer when he grows up. He is wearing pants and a shirt, and is eating ice cream. I was six when he was born. We get along with each other. Some days we don't.

Now, here's the same basic story, but with a bunch of well-placed adjectives. Do you see how it's easier to picture what's going on? Notice that the adjective almost always describes the noun after the adjective.

### Examples of adjectives:

Adj Billy is my little brother. He's Adj tall for his age and has Adj black hair and light Adj brown eyes. He wants to be a Adj bigshot lawyer when he grows up. I Adj remember it was a Adj hot summer Adj day when he was born. I was six. He's Adj wearing his favorite clothing: Adj black pants and a Adj big, Adj striped, Adj red shirt. Adj Some days, when he has a Adj big mouth and is Adj annoying, we get into Adj short, Adj violent fistfights, but always make up later.

## Identify adjectives:

### Instructions:

Read the following sentences. Identify the adjectives by putting a little “Adj” in a circle above each adjective.

### Example:


  
 Zeus is my favorite dog. He has a brown coat and cute, floppy ears.

1. My youngest daughter loves oatmeal cookies and a tall glass of cold milk.
2. I dropped my new cell phone into the pool.
3. Alice walked through the forest and saw some giant trees, some adorable striped chipmunks, lots of yellow and blue flowers, and a huge colony of brown ants.
4. Some people think that motorcycles themselves are dangerous, but others think that the real danger lies in a careless, arrogant risk-taking driver.
5. The swollen river finally overflowed the weakened levee and flooded the town.
6. The batter had strong arms and quick reflexes, but the amazing skill of the pitcher and the blinding speed of the fastball were too much to overcome. Strike three!
7. It was a brutal scene in the ring. The middleweight pounded his struggling opponent with fast, powerful rights and a killer left. The ref finally stopped the bloody fight.
8. They couldn't help it; they were in love. Between classes, they sneaked into the empty classroom, held each other in their loving arms, and gazed into each other's twinkling eyes with raging passion. Their love was sudden, but intense and real. The peaceful, dark winter mornings were sweet contrast to the violent incandescence of their budding relationship.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Due: \_\_\_\_\_

### English Homework: Identifying adjectives

#### Instructions:

Create ten sentences (5 shorter and 5 longer). Identify each adjective by putting an "Adj" in a circle above each noun.

#### Examples:

The tall, beautiful tree towered over the shorter, wider shrubs.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_



## Part of speech: ADVERB

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An adverb is a word that describes a verb or another adjective. (An adverb can also describe another adverb.) In each of these sentences, the adverb is underlined:

*In these sentences, the adverb describes a verb:*

Jack ran home quickly. (“Quickly” describes how he ran.)

The small bird flew high in the air. (“High” describes how the bird flew.)

*In these sentences, the adverb describes an adjective:*

A dark brown dog chased the rabbit. (“Dark” describes “brown”, an adjective.)

Susan thought her mother was very kind. (“Very” describes “kind”, an adjective.)

You may wonder why there’s a distinction between adjectives and adverbs. They both describe other words, so what’s the difference between whether they’re describing nouns (adjectives) or verbs (adverbs)?

Again, we have the sweet mystery of English to thank. English, most of the time, has different forms for adjectives and adverbs. In many cases, adverbs end in -ly, but of course, not all the time:

Adjective	Adverb
slow (the slow man)	slowly (the man runs slowly)
quick (she is quick with a joke)	quickly (she ran the race quickly)
smooth (the tabletop was smooth)	smoothly (he painted the table smoothly)
beautiful (the beautiful painting)	beautifully (she paints beautifully)
fast (he likes fast cars)	fast (sprinters can run fast)

Here’s the general rule:

If you’re describing a verb, use a word that ends in -ly if you can.

Remember that rule, and you’ll avoid these mistakes:

Wrong: When the dog started barking, he ran **quick**.

Correct: When the dog started barking, he ran **quickly**.

“Quick” describes the verb “ran”, so it needs to be in the adverb form.

Wrong: He sneaked up on the deer **real gradual**.

Correct: He sneaked up on the deer **really gradually**.

“Gradual” describes the verb “sneaked”, and “real” describes the adverb “gradually”. Both need to be in the adverb form.