

# Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

**A** Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time passed very **quickly**.
- Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident.

**Quickly** and **seriously** are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are formed from an adjective + *-ly*:

*adjective:* quick    serious    careful    quiet    heavy    bad  
*adverb:* quickly    seriously    carefully    quietly    heavily    badly

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in *-ly* are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in *-ly* too, for example:

friendly    lively    elderly    lonely    silly    lovely

**B** Adjective or adverb?

Adjectives (**quick/careful** etc.) tell us about a *noun* (somebody or something). We use adjectives before nouns:

- Sam is a **careful driver**.  
(*not a carefully driver*)
- We didn't go out because of the **heavy rain**.

Adverbs (**quickly/carefully** etc.) tell us about a *verb* (*how* somebody does something or *how* something happens):

- Sam **drove carefully** along the narrow road. (*not drove careful*)
- We didn't go out because it was **raining heavily**. (*not raining heavy*)

Compare:

- She speaks **perfect English**.  
*adjective + noun*

- She **speaks English perfectly**.  
*verb + noun + adverb*

We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially **be**, and also **look/feel/sound** etc.

Compare:

- Please **be quiet**.
- I was disappointed that my exam results were so **bad**.
- Why do you always **look so serious**?
- I feel **happy**.

- Please **speak quietly**.
- I was unhappy that I **did so badly** in the exam. (*not did so bad*)
- Why do you never **take me seriously**?
- The children were **playing happily**.

**C** We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

**reasonably** cheap                    (*adverb + adjective*)  
**terribly** sorry                      (*adverb + adjective*)  
**incredibly** quickly                (*adverb + adverb*)

- It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not terrible sorry*)
- Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- The examination was **surprisingly easy**.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (**injured/organised/written** etc.):

- Two people were **seriously injured** in the accident. (*not serious injured*)
- The meeting was very **badly organised**.

1 Complete each sentence with an adverb. The first letters of the adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining he avily .
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very ba..... .
- 3 I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite ea..... .
- 4 We had to wait for a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited pat..... .
- 5 Nobody knew Steve was coming to see us. He arrived unex..... .
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis reg..... .
- 7 I don't speak French very well, but I can understand per..... if people speak sl..... and cl..... .

2 Put in the correct word.

- 1 Two people were seriously injured in the accident. (serious / seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had serious injuries. (serious / seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very ..... . (selfish / selfishly)
- 4 Rose is ..... upset about losing her job. (terrible / terribly)
- 5 There was a ..... change in the weather. (sudden / suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the party was ..... dressed. (colourful / colourfully)
- 7 Linda likes wearing ..... clothes. (colourful / colourfully)
- 8 Liz fell and hurt herself quite ..... . (bad / badly)
- 9 Joe says he didn't do well at school because he was ..... taught. (bad / badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look ..... . (safe / safely)

3 Complete each sentence using a word from the box. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

careful(ly)	complete(ly)	continuous(ly)	financial(ly)	fluent(ly)
happy/happily	nervous(ly)	perfect(ly)	<del>quick(ly)</del>	special(ly)

- 1 Our holiday was too short. The time passed very quickly .
- 2 Steve doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always ..... .
- 3 Sue works ..... . She never seems to stop.
- 4 Rachel and Patrick are very ..... married.
- 5 Maria's English is very ..... although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 6 I cooked this meal ..... for you, so I hope you like it.
- 7 Everything was very quiet. There was ..... silence.
- 8 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me ..... .
- 9 Do you usually feel ..... before examinations?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car, but it's ..... impossible for me at the moment.

4 Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

absolutely	badly	completely	changed	<del>cheap</del>	damaged
<del>reasonably</del>	seriously	slightly	enormous	ill	long
unnecessarily	unusually		planned	quiet	

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive, but it was reasonably cheap .
- 2 Steve's mother is ..... in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's ..... .
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only ..... .
- 5 The children are normally very lively, but they're ..... today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had ..... .
- 7 The film was ..... . It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was ..... .