

5 ADJECTIVE-ADVERBS

Adjectives and adverbs are modifiers. To decide whether a sentence requires an adjective or an adverb, you must note the part of speech of the word modified and the question(s) answered by the modifiers.

Adjectives modify **nouns and pronouns**.

Adjectives answer the questions **Which one? How many? What kind? Whose?**

Adverbs modify **verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs**.

Adverbs answer the questions **How? When? Where? To what extent?**

Many adverbs end in **-ly**.

Ex: **joyfully; happily, sweetly**

Always use an adjective rather than an adverb with a *linking verb*. Linking verbs show no action; they connect a word or words which describe or are equal to the subject. The most common linking verbs are forms of *to be* (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been). Other common linking verbs are appear, become, feel, grow, look, remain, seem, smell, sound, stay, and taste.

Ex: Yolonda is beautiful.

Ex: Jared stays healthy by running 10 miles per week.

CONFUSING PAIRS

1. Bad–Badly

Bad is an adjective; **badly** is an adverb.

Ex: James bruised his knee badly (“Badly” modifies the action verb “bruised”).

Always keep the linking verbs in mind when working with these words.

Ex: That bruise looks really bad! Did it hurt?

(“Bad” modifies the noun “bruise.” There is no action. The bruise is not “looking” with its eyes.)

2. Good–Well

Good is always an adjective. **Well** is usually an adverb that means to perform an action capably.

Ex: The clean puppy smells good. (“Good” modifies the noun “puppy” in this case. There is no action. The puppy is not using his nose.)

Ex: The bloodhound puppy smells well. (“Well” modifies the action verb “smells.” The puppy IS using his nose.)

Ex: Michael Simon cooks very well.

However, when referring to health, **well** also functions as an adjective.

Ex: Despite her cold, Carmen felt well. (“Well” modifies “Carmen” and is a synonym of healthy.)

