

## Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

## A

You can say:

- ☐ 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 *adjective + -ly*:

|                  |                |                  |                  |              |                |                 |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>adjective</i> | quick          | serious          | careful          | bad          | heavy          | terrible        |
| <i>adverb</i>    | <b>quickly</b> | <b>seriously</b> | <b>carefully</b> | <b>badly</b> | <b>heavily</b> | <b>terribly</b> |

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**   **lovely**
- ☐ It was a **lovely** day.

## 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*

## C

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

Compare:

- ☐ Please **be quiet**.
- ☐ My exam results **were** really **bad**.
- ☐ Why do you always **look** so **serious**?
- ☐ I **feel** happy.

- ☐ Please **speak quietly**.
- ☐ I **did** really **badly** in the exam.
- ☐ Why do you never **take** me **seriously**?
- ☐ The children were **playing happily**.

## D

You can also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>reasonably</b> cheap   | ( <i>adverb + adjective</i> ) |
| <b>terribly</b> sorry     | ( <i>adverb + adjective</i> ) |
| <b>incredibly</b> quickly | ( <i>adverb + adverb</i> )    |

- ☐ It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- ☐ I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you.
- ☐ Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- ☐ The exam 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 conference was **badly organised**.

## Exercises

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

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining heavily.....
- 2 I had no problem finding a place to live. I found a flat quite easily.....
- 3 We had to wait a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited patiently.....
- 4 Nobody knew that Simon was coming to see us. He arrived unexpectedly.....
- 5 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis regularly.....
- 6 I don't speak French very well, but I can understand perfectly..... if people speak slowly..... and clearly.....

**100.2 Put in the correct word.**

- 1 Sam drove carefully along the narrow road. (careful / carefully)
- 2 I think you behaved very ..... (selfish / selfishly)
- 3 The weather changed ..... (sudden / suddenly)
- 4 There was a ..... change in the weather. (sudden / suddenly)
- 5 Liz fell and hurt herself really ..... (bad / badly)
- 6 I think I have flu. I feel ..... (awful / awfully)
- 7 Tanya is ..... upset about losing her job. (terrible / terribly)
- 8 I could sit in this chair all day. It's very ..... (comfortable / comfortably)
- 9 I explained everything as ..... as I could. (clear / clearly)
- 10 Be careful on that ladder. It doesn't look very ..... (safe / safely)
- 11 Have a good trip and I hope you have a ..... journey. (safe / safely)
- 12 I'm glad you had a good trip and got home ..... (safe / safely)

**100.3 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) | dangerous(ly) | financial(ly) | fluent(ly)  |
| frequent(ly) | nervous(ly)  | perfect(ly)   | permanent(ly) | special(ly) |

- 1 Sam doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always careful.
- 2 He's late sometimes, but it doesn't happen frequently.....
- 3 Maria's English is very ..... although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 4 I cooked this meal ..... for you, so I hope you like it.
- 5 Everything was very quiet. There was ..... silence.
- 6 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me ..... .
- 7 I'd like to buy a car, but it's ..... impossible for me at the moment.
- 8 I'm staying here only a few weeks. I won't be living here ..... .
- 9 Do you usually feel ..... before exams?
- 10 Dan likes to take risks. He lives ..... .

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

|            |               |            |          |         |         |
|------------|---------------|------------|----------|---------|---------|
| absolutely | badly         | completely | changed  | cheap   | damaged |
| happily    | reasonably    | seriously  | enormous | ill     | long    |
| slightly   | unnecessarily | unusually  | married  | planned | quiet   |

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