Adverbs

What is an adverb? An adverb is a word that explains where, when, or in what manner something happens; they can also show the degree of something. It can modify a verb ("he sings **loudly"**), an adjective ("**very** tall"), another adverb ("ended **too** quickly"), or even a whole sentence ("**Fortunately**, I had brought an umbrella.").

Here we will focus on adverbs that describe verbs. Look at the following sentences:

John ran **quickly**. Jane drove **carefully**.

The words *quickly* and *carefully* are adverbs. They describe how John ran and how Jane drove.

Adverbs often end in *-ly*, but some (such as *fast, early, hard, etc.*) look exactly the same as their adjective counterparts. These must be memorized.

In general, adverbs should be placed as close as possible to the words they are intended to modify.

Let's practice. Choose an adverb from the box to complete the sentences below.

loudly	seriously	impatiently	broadly	angrily

1) He _____ pushed her out the door.
2) John sang _____ in the shower.
3) She smiled _____ when she saw her parents.
4) My dog waits _____ for its food.
5) I will _____ consider your proposal.

Comparative and Superlative Forms. With adverbs ending in *-ly*, you must use *more* to form the comparative, and *most* to form the superlative.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative	Example
quietly	more quietly	most quietly	Maria sang more quietly than John.
slowly	more slowly	most slowly	The teacher spoke more slowly to help us understand.
carefully	more carefully	most carefully	Bill drove the most carefully.

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With short adverbs that do not end in *–ly*, the comparative and superlative forms are identical adjectives: add *-er* to form the comparative and *-est* to form the superlative.[1]

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative	Example
hard	hard**er**	hard**est**	Susan works harder than her brother.
fast	fast**er**	fast**est**	Carlos ran the fastest of all.
late	lat**er**	lat**est**	Paula arrived later than Jim.

Some adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative	Example
badly	worse	worst	You're driving **worse** today than yesterday!
far	farther/further	farthest/furthest	The little boy ran **farther** than his friends.
little	less	least	That was the least interesting movie I have seen.
well	better	best	He played **the best** of any player.

.Let's practice. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the given adverbs.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
clumsily		
happily		
late		
carefully		
gently		
hard		

[1] Be very careful with the words *hard* and *late*. These words have *–ly* forms, but the meanings of these words is quite different: *hardly* means "apenas" and *lately* means "recien".

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Write the comparative form of the word in bold.

Who can run _____ than Serena?	**fast**
Brad drew _____ than his sister.	**skillfully**
He carried the egg _____ than I did.	**carefully**
This box holds _____ than the other one.	**little**

* Remember to include *than*, just like with comparative adjectives.

Write the superlative form of the word in bold.

Keri lives the _____ of all the children in school.	**far**
Of the three girls, Maya ate _____.	**greedily**
Aunt May visits us the _____ of all my relatives.	**regularly**
Mark writes the _____.	**legibly**

* Remember to include *the*, just like with superlative adjectives.

Write the correct form of the word in bold.

Tom ate _____ at lunch time.	**quickly**
I read _____ than my younger sister.	**well**
At the funeral, she wept the _____ of everyone.	**bitterly**
The cat moved more _____ than the dog.	**stealthily**
Fidel acted the _____ of all my friends.	**loyally**

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