Finding Nemo:
An Ocean of Adjectives & Adverbs

A 5th Grade Writing Adventure

Dive In: What Are We Learning?

Adjectives are describing words. They tell us more about a NOUN (a person, place, or thing) — like what it looks like, feels like, or how many there are.

Adverbs are describing words too, but they tell us more about a VERB (an action word) — like how, when, or where something happens. Many adverbs end in -ly!

Get ready to swim through the Great Barrier Reef with Marlin and Dory as we hunt for the perfect words to describe their adventure!

Examples From the Reef

Word Type	Example from the Reef	What It Describes
Adjective	"the tiny clownfish"	a noun (clownfish)
Adjective	"the forgetful fish"	a noun (fish, aka Dory)
Adverb	"swam nervously"	a verb (swam)
Adverb	"searched desperately"	a verb (searched)

Your Word Bank

Use these words to help you in the activities below, or come up with your own ocean-themed words!

Adjective Word Bank (describe a noun)	Adverb Word Bank (describe a verb)
tiny	quickly
brave	bravely
curious	nervously
sparkly	happily
enormous	carefully
forgetful	suddenly
scary	quietly
gentle	excitedly

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✨ Activity 1: Fix Nemo's Boring Sentences

These sentences are missing describing words. Rewrite each one by adding at least one adjective AND one adverb. Use the word bank or your imagination!

- Nemo swam _____ into the _____ ocean.
- Marlin looked for his son _____ near the _____ reef.
- Dory _____ forgot where they were going.
- The _____ shark chased them _____ _____ through the water.

🔍 Activity 2: Adjective or Adverb?

Read each underlined word below. Write "ADJ" if it is an adjective or "ADV" if it is an adverb.

- The enormous whale swam past. _____
- Nemo bravely touched the boat. _____
- Squirt talked excitedly about the current. _____
- Bruce the shark had sharp teeth. _____
- Crush surfed smoothly along the current. _____

✏️ Writing Prompts: Create Your Own Adventure

Choose one prompt below (or try them all!). Write your story on the lines provided. Circle every adjective you use and underline every adverb.

Prompt 1: A New Friend in the Reef

Nemo meets a new sea creature he has never seen before. Describe what the creature looks like and how it moves and talks. What adventure do they go on together?

Remember: use at least 3 adjectives and 3 adverbs. Underline or circle each one!

Prompt 2: Lost in the Current

You are a tiny fish who gets swept away by a strong ocean current, just like Nemo! Describe the underwater world you see as you drift along, and how you feel.

Remember: use at least 3 adjectives and 3 adverbs. Underline or circle each one!

Prompt 3: Dory Saves the Day

Dory uses her special talent to help Marlin in an unexpected way. Describe the exciting moment when she saves the day.

Remember: use at least 3 adjectives and 3 adverbs. Underline or circle each one!

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Write Your Story Here

Use the space below to write your chosen story. Try to use at least 5 adjectives and 5 adverbs!

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