

Writing with Adverbs

You have learned that every sentence contains a verb and that many verbs express action. When you write, you can use adverbs with verbs to make the action seem more real.

Read the sentences below. The underlined words in the sentences are adverbs. Each adverb describes a verb by telling *how*, *when*, or *where*.

Rita eagerly reads books about volcanoes. (reads how?)

She reported about volcanoes today. (reported when?)

A volcano erupted somewhere. (erupted where?)

Here are some common adverbs. Notice that many adverbs end in -ly, especially adverbs that tell how.

How? gladly, slowly, suddenly, quietly, well, badly, fast

When? always, often, lately, never, usually, now, today

Where? everywhere, here, there, forward, outside, nearby

Summary A word that describes a verb is an adverb. Use adverbs to add details to your writing.

Guided Practice

In the sentences below, the verbs are underlined. Name the adverbs that describe them.

1. Rita told us today about the eruption of Mount St. Helens. _____

2. She spoke excitedly about the burning lava. _____

3. The hot lava flowed everywhere. _____

4. I gave my report yesterday. _____

5. The class listened attentively. _____

Practice

A. In the sentences below, the verbs are underlined. Find the adverb in each sentence and write it.

6. Tourists frequently visited Mount St. Helens in Washington.

7. They gladly camped near this beautiful mountain.

8. Herds of elk and deer lived nearby.

9. Volcanoes often erupt after many years of stillness.

10. In the nineteenth century, Mount St. Helens erupted occasionally.

11. For over a hundred years, this volcano slept quietly.

12. In 1975, scientists correctly predicted another eruption.

13. On March 20, 1980, the mountain suddenly shook.

14. People fearfully awaited the volcano's eruption.

15. Some quickly left the area.

B. Write the adverb. Write how, when, or where to show what the adverb tells about the verb.

Example: Ali studied the map closely.

Answer: closely how

16. On March 27, 1980, Mount St. Helens exploded violently.

17. Steam and ash flew skyward.

18. Smaller explosions frequently occurred through early May.

19. Ash soon covered the mountain peak.

20. Scientists traveled there to study this volcano.
