

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*:

adjective	quick	serious	careful	bad	heavy	terrible
adverb	quickly	seriously	carefully	badly	heavily	terribly

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:

reasonably cheap	(adverb + adjective)
terribly sorry	(adverb + adjective)
incredibly quickly	(adverb + adverb)

- 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 **ea**.....
- 3 We had to wait a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited **pat**.....
- 4 Nobody knew that Simon was coming to see us. He arrived **unex**.....
- 5 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis **reg**.....
- 6 I don't speak French very well, but I can understand **per**..... if people speak **sl**..... and **cl**.....

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.....
- 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
- 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