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Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Adverbs of Manner

Adverbs can describe verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, clauses, or whole sentences. Adverbs answer the questions *how*, *when*, *where*, *how often*, etc.

Adverbs of manner, which are the focus of this lesson, are words that describe **verbs**. These adverbs answer the question *how*. They describe **how** an action is done.

Examples:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| He spoke. | <i>How</i> did he speak? | He spoke quickly . |
| She laughed. | <i>How</i> did she laugh? | She laughed loudly . |

1. Form:

Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding **-ly** to the **adjective** form. Think of this pattern: **Adj + -ly**.

| Adjective | Adverb |
|-----------|-----------|
| bad | badly |
| happy | happily |
| noisy | noisily |
| serious | seriously |
| careful | carefully |
| loud | loudly |

| Adjective | Adverb |
|-------------|---------------|
| beautiful | beautifully |
| intelligent | intelligently |
| quick | quickly |
| slow | slowly |
| quiet | quietly |
| | |

2. Exceptions:

Some adverbs don't change at all from the adjective form. Other adverbs become a different word. The box on the right lists some common exceptions.

Note: Don't confuse the adverb **hard**, which means *a lot* or *a big effort*, with **hardly**, which is an adverb that means *almost none*.

| Adjective | Adverb |
|-----------|--------|
| fast | fast |
| good | well |
| hard | hard |

Examples:

She studied **hard** for the test. (She studied a lot.)
 She **hardly** studied. (She barely studied; she almost didn't study at all.)

3. Sentence Position:

A. Most adverbs of manner go *after the verb* in the sentence. Think of this pattern:

| |
|----------------|
| V + Adv |
|----------------|

Examples:

He **ran slowly** around the track.

She **dances beautifully**.

The politician **spoke intelligently** about the environmental issues.

B. It is also possible to put the adverb of manner *after the direct or indirect object* in the sentence. Even in this position, the adverb is still describing the *verb*.

Examples:

He ran around the track **slowly**. (*Slowly* describes *ran*, not *the track*.)

The politician spoke about the environmental issues **intelligently**. (*Intelligently* describes *spoke*, not *the environmental issues*.)

C. Some adverbs of manner can also go *before the verb*.

Examples:

She **repeatedly** asked the question. / She asked the question **repeatedly**. (*Repeatedly* describes *asked* in both sentences.)

The children **quietly** played in their room. / The children played **quietly** in their room. / The children played in their room **quietly**. (*Quietly* describes *played* in all sentences.)

Notes on -ly Adjectives:

Be careful! Most words ending with **-ly** are adverbs, but there are a few adjectives with this ending. The most common adjectives that end with **-ly** are *friendly*, *costly*, and some “time” adjectives like *hourly*, *daily*, *weekly*, *monthly*, and *yearly*. These adjectives follow the patterns:

| |
|-------------------------|
| Adjective + Noun |
|-------------------------|

| |
|-----------------------|
| Be + Adjective |
|-----------------------|

Examples:

She is **friendly**.

That was a **costly** meal.

We had our **monthly** meeting on Tuesday.

4. Equative, Comparative, and Superlative Forms:

The **equative** form is used to show that the adverb describing the verb is *equal* to something or someone else. The **comparative** form is used when the adverb describing a verb is *more than* something or someone else. The **superlative** form shows that the adverb describing the verb is *the most* when compared to a group.

| Form | Pattern | Example |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| Equative | as + Adv + as | He speaks as well as she does. |
| Comparative | more + Adv + than | She sings more beautifully than her sister. |
| Superlative | the + most + Adv | Who finished the most quickly ? |

Notes on the Comparative and Superlative Forms:

A. Unlike two-syllable adjectives, where **-er** and **-est** are added and **-y** changes to **-i** (e.g., *funny* becomes *funnier/funniest*, *friendly* becomes *friendlier/friendliest*), two-syllable adverbs DO NOT take the endings **-er** and **-est**. The words **more** and **most** are added instead.

Examples:

Your roommate finished cleaning **more quickly** than you did. (NOT *quicklier*)

Our neighbors ate **more slowly** than us at the barbecue. (NOT *slowlier*)

This is the painting that yours resembles **the most closely**. (NOT *the closeliest*)

B. For adverbs that fall into the “exceptions” category listed on page 2 (generally those without the **-ly** form), the comparative and superlative are formed in the same way for both adjectives and adverbs.

| Adjective | Adverb | Comparative | Superlative |
|-----------|--------|-------------|-------------|
| bad | badly | worse | worst |
| good | well | better | best |
| hard | hard | harder | hardest |
| fast | fast | faster | fastest |

Examples:

She studied **harder** than him.

He ran **faster** than his classmate.

Of all the members on our soccer team, Maria plays the **best**.

Exercise 1:

Change the adjectives in parentheses into adverbs.

1. My sister has an amazing voice. She sings _____. (beautiful)
2. That guy sure knows how to run _____. He beat everyone at the track competition. (quick)
3. When you want something done _____, sometimes you have to do it yourself. (correct)
4. Now that the windshield is clean, I can see _____. (clear)
5. The ballerinas danced _____ around the stage. (graceful)
6. That joke was so funny. I laughed _____ when you told it to me. (loud)
7. The teacher spoke _____ to the new students. (kind)
8. The children ate their snacks _____. (noisy)
9. The new girl _____ introduced herself to the class. (shy)
10. The big waves crashed _____ onto the beach. (violent)

Exercise 2:

Insert the adverbs into the sentences. Use each adverb only once.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <i>lazily</i> | <i>politely</i> | <i>rudely</i> | |
| <i>sensibly</i> | <i>correctly</i> | <i>safely</i> | <i>fast</i> |
| <i>neatly</i> | <i>calmly</i> | <i>sleepily</i> | |

1. There was a fire, but everyone made it out of the building _____.
2. I can't believe my coworker just spoke _____ to our boss. I wonder if he'll get fired?
3. It's cold out. I hope you'll dress _____.
4. Once Mike showed Tammy how to run the new machine, she could do it _____ by herself.
5. My roommate folded his laundry _____.
6. When the power went out, the kindergarten teacher spoke _____ to the frightened students.
7. My cat stretched out _____ in the sun.
8. She greeted me _____ when we were introduced.
9. The little girl smiled _____ at her father when he woke her up.
10. How did you finish the test so _____?



Exercise 3:

Rewrite the sentences to include the adverbs in parentheses. Some sentences have more than one possible answer.

1. She smiled at her new boss. (nervously)

2. Mark yelled for the bus driver to stop. (loudly)

3. Did you answer all of the questions? (honestly)

4. Akiko studied for the test. (hard)

5. I was so embarrassed when my stomach growled. (hungrily)

6. Those kittens are so small. Make sure you play with them. (carefully)

7. The children played in the library. (quietly)

8. When I invited him to the party, he responded. (enthusiastically)

9. Did you sleep last night? (well)

10. The teenage boy was late coming home, so he tiptoed into the house. (silently)

Exercise 4:

Error Correction. Locate the error, correct it, and rewrite the sentence correctly. (There may be more than one possible answer.)

1. Susan answered all of the intelligently questions on the job application.

2. The carefully scientist mixed the chemicals.

3. I haven't played the piano for two years. When I tried yesterday, badly I played.

4. She completed the driving successfully test.

5. Jeff well played soccer all year.

6. The boy hugged his gently baby sister.

7. Christina approached the cautiously big dog.

8. Hye Jun ran to catch the quickly bus.

9. The parents sang to get their children to go softly to sleep.

10. She asked about the repeatedly homework.

Exercise 5:

*Adverb or Adjective? Read the following sentences and decide whether each underlined word is an adverb (write **Adv**) or an adjective (write **Adj**).*

1. She is a hard worker. _____
2. He works hard at his job. _____
3. Sandra entered the class quietly because it had already started. _____
4. I like Ryan. He's a friendly guy. _____
5. We moved fast when we realized we were late. _____
6. They saw some fast cars in the race yesterday. _____
7. Are you going to the weekly study session? _____
8. My new purse is by a famous designer. It's pretty costly. _____
9. I didn't study last night, so I probably won't do well on the test. _____
10. Don't speak loudly in the library. _____

Exercise 6:

Equative, Comparative, and Superlative Forms. Combine the sentences into one and use the equative, comparative, or superlative form based on the meaning of the sentences.

1. Justin runs slowly. Josh runs more slowly.

Josh runs more slowly than Justin.

2. Michelle plays the violin beautifully. Tina plays the violin beautifully, too.

3. She works hard. He works harder.

4. Takahiro drives the most carefully. His friends drive carefully.

5. He walks fast. She walks faster.

6. Lily talks quickly. Paul talks more quickly.

7. My sister speaks French well. My brother speaks French better.

8. John did the worst on the test. His classmates did well.

9. My mother plays cards well. My father plays cards better.

10. My grandmother gives money generously. My grandfather gives money generously, too.

Exercise 7:

Comparative Form. Write your own comparative sentences using the adverbs in the box.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>silently</i> | <i>clearly</i> | <i>loudly</i> | |
| <i>quietly</i> | <i>harder</i> | <i>easily</i> | <i>quickly</i> |
| <i>politely</i> | <i>safely</i> | <i>better</i> | |

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Exercise 8:*Quiz: Adverbs of Manner.*

1. I finished my homework _____ you.
a) quickly b) more quickly c) quicklier d) as quickly as
2. He ran around the block _____.
a) quick b) as quickly as c) more quickly d) quickly
3. Nicole finished the test _____.
a) as fast as b) the fastest c) fastly d) faster
4. Nick was upset because the clerk spoke _____ to him.
a) more rudely b) the most rudely c) rudely d) as rudely as
5. She walked _____ into the haunted house as he did.
a) bravely b) more bravely than c) as bravely d) bravely more
6. Jen promised that she answered my question _____.
a) truthfully b) more truthfully c) as truthfully as d) more truthfully than
7. My friends greeted me _____ at the airport.
a) as cheerfully b) as cheerfully as c) more cheerfully d) cheerfully
8. The boy climbed the wall _____ his friend.
a) easily b) more easily c) easilier d) more easily than
9. The wind blew _____ through the trees.
a) violently b) more violently than c) as violently as d) the most violently
10. Out of all the talented singers here, he sings _____.
a) better b) the best c) well d) good