

What Can Adverbs Describe?

An Adverb Can Describe a Verb

An adverb can answer one of the following questions about a verb:

When? Where? How? How often? How much?

In the examples below, the adverb is in bold and the verb the adverb describes is underlined.

Question	Example
When?	<i>Yesterday we <u>celebrated</u> my grandparents' wedding anniversary.</i>
Where?	<i>The frightened bird <u>flew</u> away.</i>
How?	<i>The students <u>talked</u> quietly among themselves.</i>
How often?	<i>Mrs. Sanchez often <u>reads</u> the newspaper after dinner.</i>
How much?	<i>We strongly <u>disagreed</u> with the speaker's opinions.</i>

An Adverb Can Describe an Adjective

An adverb that describes an adjective often answers the question "To what degree?" (The question "To what degree?" is similar to the question "How much?") In the examples below, the adverb is in bold and the adjective the adverb describes is underlined.

*We were **very** tired after our long journey.*

*The scientists are **quite** surprised with the results of the experiment.*

*The children became **more** helpful to their mother after she broke her leg.*

The words *tired*, *surprised*, and *helpful* are all adjectives. The bold adverb in each sentence is describing an adjective.

An Adverb Can Describe Another Adverb

In the examples below, two adverbs are underlined. The adverb in bold is describing the other underlined adverb.

*Leon is **almost** always late for school.*

*When the fire alarm rang, we walked **very** quickly out of the building.*

*Our soccer team played **extremely** well in the last game.*

The words *always*, *quickly*, and *well* are all adverbs. Notice how each bold adverb describes the underlined adverb that is not bold.