

Lesson 163

Parts of the Sentence - Adverbs

Adverbs are words that modify (1) **verbs**, (2) **adjectives**, and (3) other **adverbs**. They tell *how* (manner), *when* (time), *where* (place), *how much* (degree), and *why* (cause).

Why is a common one-word adverb that tells why. Adverbs that tell us *how*, *when*, *where*, and *why* always modify the verb. These adverbs can shift location in the sentence without changing meaning or what they modify. Adverbs that tell us *how much* modify adjectives or other adverbs. Adverbs that tell *how much* will come just before the adjectives or adverbs that they modify. These adverbs are also called **qualifiers** because they strengthen or weaken the words they modify.

Examples:

He kicked the ball **solidly**. (how)

He kicked the ball **immediately**. (when)

He kicked the ball **forward**. (where)

He kicked the ball **too** hard. (how much)

Not and its contraction *n't* are adverbs. They really modify the entire sentence, but we will have them modify the verb as it is the most important word in the sentence. This is a common practice in grammar books.

Instructions: Find the **adverbs** modifying other **adverbs** in the following sentences and tell what word they modify.

1. The announcer should speak less loudly.
2. You should do much better.
3. People shouldn't change their jobs too often.
4. Very slowly the car started down the hill.
5. The contestant answered the question rather uncertainly.