

Lesson 165

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.

Adverbial objectives or **adverbial nouns** are **nouns** used as adverbs. They usually tell *amount*, *weight*, *time*, *distance*, *direction* or *value*. They can have adjectives modifying them.

Example:

He waited **two days**.

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

1. This suitcase weighs a ton.

2. The grandchildren happily swung back and forth in the swing.

3. The climber edged slowly and carefully along the ledge.

4. He is a rather bashful person.

5. Every afternoon the baby cries very forcefully for food.