

Grammar

ADVERBS

Adverb

a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb

EXAMPLE A firefighter ran **swiftly** past her.
He was carrying a **very** small child.
The fire blazed **too** dangerously for anyone to enter.

An adverb answers questions about the word it modifies: *Where? When? How? How often? or To what extent?*

- EXAMPLES
- a. **Yesterday** a fire **completely** destroyed the home of a family on Coffee Street.
Yesterday and completely are adverbs modifying the verb *destroyed*. Yesterday tells *when*; completely tells *to what extent*.
- b. A woman who lives **nearby** explained that the fire began **early** in the morning and continued **furiously** until noon.
In this example, nearby is an adverb modifying the verb *lives*; it tells *where*. Early is an adverb modifying the verb *began*; it tells *when*. Furiously is an adverb modifying the verb *continued*; it tells *how*.
- c. **Rarely** does a fire last **so long**.
Rarely modifies the verb *does last* and tells *how often*. So modifies the adverb *long*, which modifies the verb *does last*. Together the words so long answer the question *to what extent*.

Here is a list of words that are often used as adverbs:

<u>Where?</u>	here, there, away, up, inside
<u>When?</u>	now, then, later, soon
<u>How?</u>	clearly, easily, quietly, slowly
<u>How often?</u>	never, always, often, seldom
<u>To what extent?</u>	very, too, almost, so, really

The Forms of Adverbs

Many adverbs end in *-ly*. These adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to adjectives: *clear* - *clearly*, *vigorous* - *vigorously*, *quiet* - *quietly*. **However, do not think that all words that end in *-ly* are adverbs.** Some words ending in *-ly* are adjectives: friendly welcome, timely remark, lonely weekend, kindly doctor.

The word **not** is nearly always used as an adverb to modify a verb. Sometimes **not** is part of a contraction, as in hadn't, aren't, and didn't. When it is, the n't is an adverb and should not be mistaken for part of the verb.