

PART II: MODIFIERS AND MORE COMPLEX SENTENCES

MODIFIERS COMPLETE SENTENCES

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THEM, WRITERS ADVISE

You've learned the two basic forms of a sentence: subject-verb or subject-verb-object. Everything else in the sentence is a modifier of some kind. In this section we will learn what the chief modifiers are.

ADJECTIVES SPOTTED NEXT TO NOUNS

Adjectives are usually placed before the nouns they modify. But there is an exception: sometimes, one or more adjectives follow a linking verb (see page 22 if you don't remember what a linking verb is). When that happens, the adjective is called a **complement**, because the adjective goes along with (or "complements") the subject.

But nouns can be complements, too. How can you tell if the word after a linking verb is a noun or an adjective? Compare the sentences below:

Mr. Jones is a policeman.

The girls are students.

Mr. Jones is brave.

The girls are smart.

In your mind, read the underlined word in each sentence before the subject: *Policeman Mr. Jones. Brave Mr. Jones.* Which combination sounds better?

If "brave Mr. Jones" sounds better, then *brave* must be an adjective. If *smart girls* makes more sense than *students girls*, then *smart* is an adjective. If any word sounds correct and makes sense when you hear it in front of a simple noun, like "girl" or "man" or "thing," it's an adjective.

In the sentences below, circle every word within the parentheses that makes sense (there may be more than one). Check your answers on page 129.

1. The (is, grow, pretty, dishes) girl sighed.
2. The (take, newspapers, red-headed, friendly) boy smiled.
3. Tony was (pleased, were, squirrel, upset).
4. The (books, handsome, around, bashful) gentleman paused.
5. The preschool class is (run, fun, noisy, beside).

I COMPLETED THIS EXERCISE ON _____.

Every word in a sentence has a job to do. *The job of the adjective is to modify, or describe, a noun.* That's easy to remember, isn't it? You can begin helping us with adjectives right away.

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WRITERS IN SOCIAL WHIRL

The following two articles are part of our society page—or they will be as soon as you fill each blank space with a word that sounds right. Ask an adult or older sibling to help if you can't think of any suitable words, but all the blanks have to be filled. Use your imagination: there are several possibilities for each blank, but all the words you choose will be adjectives. The spaces simply could not be filled with anything else!

LOCAL CELEBRITIES PULL FOR CHARITY

The third annual Hospital Auxiliary Tug-of-War and Mud Slide was a _____ success. Our city's finest took part, including Mayor O.B. Juste, Channel 4's _____ meteorologist Sunny McCloud, The suave, _____ attorney, Owen Sosume, and _____ local author Paige Turner. Shortly after noon at Central Park, captains Juste and Turner chose their teams, which then took their places on opposite sides of the _____ mud puddle created for this occasion. To the _____ cheers of their fans, the two teams seesawed back and forth until Turner's band gave a mighty tug and pulled our _____ mayor and his team into the puddle. A _____, _____ time was had by all, and the hospital auxiliary reports that the two _____ tug-of-war teams raised over \$5000 to buy new play equipment for the children's unit.

I COMPLETED THIS ASSIGNMENT ON _____.

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DREW-SAWYER NUPTIALS

Ms. Nancy Drew and Mr. Thomas T. Sawyer were wed last Thursday in a _____ ceremony at First Community Church. The bride wore a _____, _____ gown with _____ sleeves and carried a bouquet of _____ roses. The church sanctuary, decorated by Wedding Belles, bloomed with a _____ blend of _____ flowers, _____ doves, and festoons of _____ ribbon. The bride's attendants wore formal-length _____ dresses and carried _____ bouquets of daisies and iris. The bride and groom repeated their vows in the _____ light of one hundred candles. To close the ceremony, all the guests were invited to rise and sing one chorus of " _____."

(Write the title of your favorite song here.)

I COMPLETED THIS ASSIGNMENT ON _____.

ADVERBS ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS

Adverbs may be harder to recognize than adjectives because there's no rule about where to put them. But they are modifiers, too. Adverbs modify verbs, as you might guess. But sometimes they help out adjectives or other adverbs.

Like all the other parts of speech we've learned, adverbs have a job. The job of an adverb is to tell *when*, *where*, *how*, or *how much*. Let's explore these questions further.

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If the adverb modifies a verb, it will tell *when*, *where*, or *how* something happened. But, as we just said, sometimes an adverb can modify an adjective or even another adverb. When that happens, the adverb tells *how much*. Some examples are

Pretty scary (adverb modifies an adjective)

Very loud (adverb modifies an adjective)

Fairly often (adverb modifies another adverb)

In the list below, draw lines to match each adverb with the question it answers.

happily	
yesterday	When?
there	
here	Where?
too	
now	How?
badly	
very	How much?

Another interesting quality of adverbs is that they can often be formed from adjectives by adding the letters “-ly.” *Beautiful* becomes *beautifully*. *Easy* becomes *easily*. And . . .

Cold becomes _____ .

Warm becomes _____ .

Quick becomes _____ .

Slow becomes _____ .

Can you think of other adjective-to-adverb transformations? One tip to remember: if the adjective already ends in a *y*, like *shaky*, you’ll have to change the *y* to an *i* before adding the *-ly* ending. So *shaky* becomes *shakily*.

_____ becomes _____ .

_____ becomes _____ .

_____ becomes _____ .

_____ becomes _____ .

I COMPLETED THESE EXERCISES ON _____ .