



ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS

An **ADJECTIVE** modifies (describes or says something about) a noun or pronoun.

EXAMPLE (adjective+noun):

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>silly</i> joke | <i>outrageous</i> price | <i>sleek</i> auto |
| <i>best</i> friend | <i>important</i> news | <i>scary</i> story |

An **ADVERB** modifies (describes or says something about) a VERB, or an ADJECTIVE, or another ADVERB. The adverb is usually formed by adding an -ly ending to an adjective. (soft=softly, quiet=quietly, strong=strongly, etc.)

EXAMPLE—modifying a VERB (verb+adverb):

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| drove <i>carefully</i> | sang <i>beautifully</i> | studied <i>well</i> |
| ran <i>quickly</i> | screamed <i>loudly</i> | sobbed <i>quietly</i> |

EXAMPLE—modifying an ADJECTIVE (adverb+adjective+noun):

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>outrageously</i> expensive dress | <i>incredibly</i> rich dessert |
| <i>luxuriously</i> appointed sports car | <i>really</i> difficult exam |

EXAMPLE—modifying an ADVERB (verb+adverb+adverb):

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| drove <i>very</i> carefully | studied <i>really</i> well |
| ran <i>incredibly</i> quickly | screamed <i>unbelievably</i> loudly |

Bad or Badly?

Students who want to speak English correctly have trouble deciding when to use *bad* or *badly*. Before we can discuss this question--there's always a catch--we must talk about the two types of English verbs.

Action verbs show any action which one can readily demonstrate or visualize. RUN, JUMP, CRY, BREAK, SING, WALK, GIVE, HIT, TALK and DREAM are all **action** verbs because one can visualize the action of the verb.

Linking verbs show a state of existing or being. They are hard to visualize or demonstrate. Linking verbs include all forms of the verb "to be" and "sense" verbs which relate to the five senses. Here are some typical linking verbs:

| | | | |
|-------|----------|---------|--------|
| AM | IS | ARE | WAS |
| WERE | HAS BEEN | WILL BE | APPEAR |
| SEEM | FEEL | LOOK | TASTE |
| SOUND | SMELL | BECOME | ACT |

Linking verbs take a complement which can be either a noun or an adjective. In other words, the part of speech which completes the meaning of a linking verb will be either a noun or an adjective.

Using correct English, you would say the following:

I am **sick** (adjective).

She looks **odd** (adjective).

This fish smells **bad** (adjective).

His stereo sounds **scratchy** (adjective).

This milk tastes **rancid** (adjective).

You should not say, “His stereo sounds *scratchily*” or “This milk tastes *rancidly*” because the complement of the linking verb must be either a **noun** or an **adjective**, never an adverb; likewise, you cannot say, “I felt *badly* about hurting his feelings.” *Feel* is a linking verb and must take an **adjective** (bad) as its complement. The correct sentence is “I felt *bad* about hurting his feelings.”

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