

98 Adverbs of manner

Words such as “quietly” and “loudly” are adverbs. They describe and give more information about verbs, adjectives, phrases, and other adverbs.

See also:
Adjectives 92
Gradable and non-gradable adjectives 93

98.1 ADVERBS OF MANNER

Adverbs of manner describe the way something is done. They usually come after the verb they describe.

“Quietly” describes how I speak.

I speak **quietly**.

HELLO!

HELLO.

He speaks **loudly**.

“Loudly” describes how he speaks.

98.2 HOW TO FORM

Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding “-ly” to the adjective. If the adjective ends in “-y,” the “-y” is left out and “-ily” is added to make the adverb.

bad
↓
badly

careful
↓
carefully

easy
↓
easily

The “-y” is dropped.
“-ily” is added.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

A tortoise moves **slowly**.

Horses can run **quickly**.

She sings **beautifully**.

I can play the piano **badly**.

My dad sneezes **noisily**.

My sister dresses **stylishly**.

98.3 IRREGULAR ADVERBS OF MANNER

Some adverbs aren't formed by adding "-ly" to the adjective.

good



well

The adverb is totally different from the adjective.

straight



straight

The adverb is the same as the adjective.

early



early

Adjectives ending "-ly" don't change to become adverbs.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

It's dangerous to drive **fast**.



The job didn't last **long**.



Kris often arrives **late**.



Jon always studies **hard**.



98.4 ADVERBS WITH THE SAME FORM AS ADJECTIVES

Some adjectives have more than one meaning. In these cases, the equivalent adverb is often formed differently depending on the meaning of the adjective.

This means "small."

Chop the onion into **fine** pieces.



Chop it **finely**.

The adverb is formed in the usual way by adding "-ly" to the adjective. "Fine" is incorrect here.

This means "good."

I'm **fine**.



I'm doing **fine**.

The adverb has the same form as the adjective. "Finely" is incorrect here.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

It's **free** for children.



Children are admitted **free**.

We advocate **free** speech.



You can speak **freely**.