

Mastering Adverbs with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and use adverbs to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs to add detail and precision to writing.

Read the front of each card to see the adverbial challenge. Turn the card over (or look at the answer) to check your understanding. Use these cards to improve your descriptive writing skills.

What is an adverb?

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, often describing how, when, where, or to what extent something happens.

Give an example of an adverb of manner.

Examples include: quickly, softly, loudly, or carefully.
(Example: Max counted the bananas quickly.)

Identify the adverb in this sentence: 'Pip read the book yesterday.'

Yesterday (this is an adverb of time).

Which adverb of place completes this sentence: 'The stars shone ____'?

Above (or nearby, outside, everywhere).

Explain the role of an adverb of degree in the sentence: 'The experiment was extremely complex.'

The adverb 'extremely' modifies the adjective 'complex', telling us the extent or intensity of the complexity.

What is an adverb of frequency? Provide an example.

An adverb of frequency tells us how often an action occurs, such as: always, never, often, or rarely.

Rewrite this sentence with a more precise adverb: 'Zara painted the picture.'

Example: 'Zara painted the picture beautifully.' (Accept any appropriate adverb of manner).

Compare and contrast: How does changing the adverb in 'Finn swam fast' to 'Finn swam sluggishly' change the meaning?

'Fast' suggests speed and efficiency, whereas 'sluggishly' suggests a lack of energy or slow movement. The adverb completely alters the reader's perception of the action.

Justify why adverbs are important in creative writing.

Adverbs allow writers to add specific detail and texture to actions, helping the reader visualise the scene more clearly and understand the mood of the characters.

What might happen if a writer overused adverbs in their story?

Overusing adverbs can make writing feel cluttered or repetitive. It is often better to choose a stronger verb instead of using a weak verb plus an adverb.

Identify the two adverbs in this sentence: 'Kit cleverly and very quickly solved the puzzle.'

'Cleverly' (manner) and 'quickly' (manner). Note: 'very' is also an adverb modifying 'quickly'.

Challenge: Explain why 'very' is considered an adverb of degree.

It is an adverb of degree because it modifies the intensity of the word that follows it (e.g., very happy, very bright).