

Grammar Lesson 10
Adverbs

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Adverbs answer the questions “where?” “when?” “how?” and “to what extent?”

Ex:

Where?	They said the forest fire started here . The couple was married nearby .
When?	Louis promptly rounded up suspects. Then several suspects were questioned.
How?	The accident occurred suddenly . The prime minister spoke carefully .
To What Extent?	Ms. Smith was quite proud of the debate team.* She has scarcely begun the math lesson.

Important: While adjectives almost always come *before* the word they modify, adverbs can come before *or* after the word they modify.

Ex: **Slowly** the man crawled **down**. (“Slowly” and “down” both modify the verb “crawled.”)
I **seldom** see you **nowadays**. (“seldom” and “nowadays” both modify the verb “see.”)

Important: Adverbs can also interrupt verb phrases.

Ex: Ann has **already** completed her part of the project. (“already” interrupts the verb phrase “has completed.”)
Many students did **not** understand the directions. (“not” interrupts the verb phrase “did understand.”)

Adverbs Modifying Adjectives

Adverbs can modify verbs, like the above examples (except for the sentence marked by *, in which case the adverb “quite” modifies the adjective “proud”), but they can also modify adjectives. Many adverbs are formed by adding “-ly” to the end of an adjective.

Ex:

Adjective	Adverb
bright	brightly
loud	loudly
quick	quickly

Ex: An **unusually** fast starter, Karen won the race. (The adverb “unusually” modifies “fast,” which is an adjective that modifies the noun “starter.”)

Our committee was **especially** busy at this time of year. (The adverb “especially” modifies the adjective “busy,” which modifies the noun “committee.”)

Adverbs Modifying Other Adverbs

Adverbs can also modify other adverbs.

Ex: Elena finished the problem **more quickly** than I did. (The adverb “more” modifies the adverb “quickly,” which modifies the verb “finished.”)

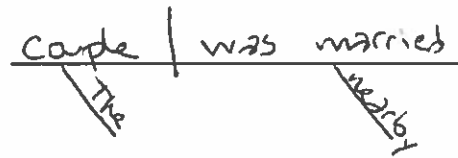
Our guest left **quite abruptly**. (The adverb “quite” modifies the adverb “abruptly,” which modifies the verb “left.”)

Diagramming Adverbs

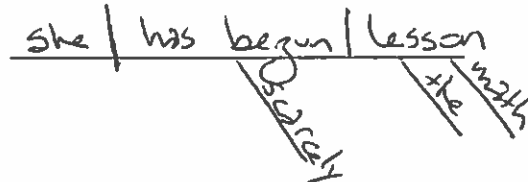
Adverbs modifying verbs

Adverbs that modify verbs are diagrammed much like an adjective. If an adverb modifies a verb, the adverb goes on a slanted line immediately below the verb it modifies.

The couple was married nearby.



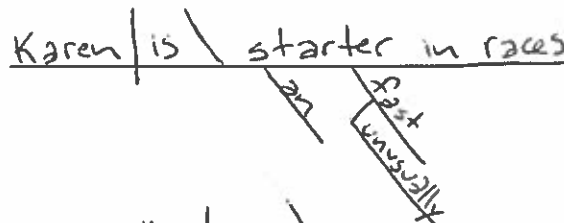
She has scarcely begun the math lesson.



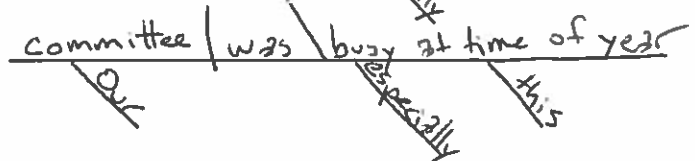
Adverbs modifying adjectives

Adverbs that modify adjectives go on a line that branches off of the adjective line that it modifies, and then the adverb line runs parallel to the adjective line it touches.

Karen is an unusually fast starter in races.



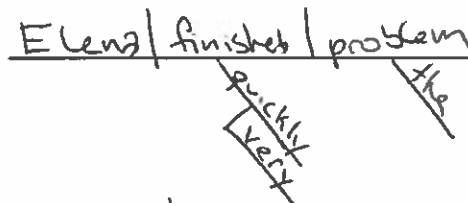
Our committee was especially busy at this time of year.
(using a predicate adjective)



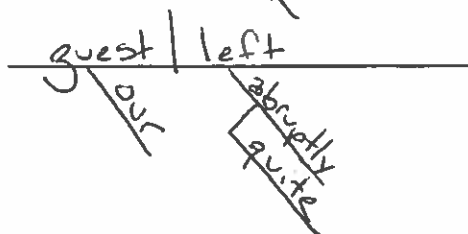
Adverbs modifying other adverbs

Adverbs that modify other adverbs are diagrammed exactly in the same way as an adverb that modifies an adjective. The adverb that modifies the other adverb will go on a line that branches off of the adverb line that it modifies, and then the adverb line runs parallel to the other adverb line it touches.

Elena finished the problem very quickly.

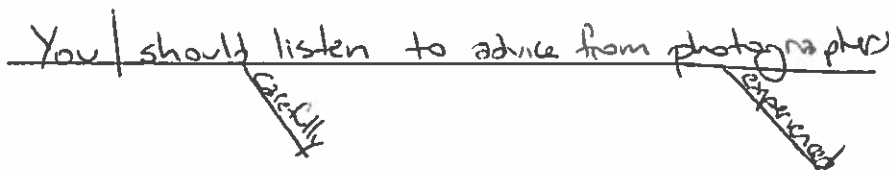


Our guest left quite abruptly.



Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, diagram each of the following sentences. Please pay special attention to diagramming linking verbs. Use your verbs handout to help you diagram sentences with linking verbs.

Ex: You should listen carefully to advice from experienced photographers.



-----Adverbs modifying verbs-----

1. Skilled photographers often share their extensive knowledge.
2. Nobody always takes perfect pictures.
3. Many beginners do not stand nearby the subject.
4. You should stand still and hold your camera firmly.
5. You should move your feet apart and put one foot forward for balance.

-----Adverbs modifying adjectives-----

6. The team is extremely proud of its record.
7. I waited nearly two hours for tickets to that show.
8. The Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans is very loud and remarkably colorful.
9. The exchange student from Norway is surprisingly fluent in English.
10. Weekends are especially hectic for me.

-----Adverbs modifying other adverbs-----

11. The California condor and the Andean condor are almost entirely extinct.
12. So very few California condors exist today.
13. Andean Condors are slightly more numerous.
14. Despite their large weight, condors fly amazingly gracefully.
15. The extinction of condors is happening especially quickly.