

Exercise 15 Identifying Verbs and Verb Phrases

Identify all the verbs and verb phrases in the sentences below. Include all helping verbs, even if the parts of a verb phrase are separated by other words.

1. Mr. Jensen always sweeps the floor first.
2. Then he washes the chalkboards.
3. He works slowly but steadily.
4. The weather forecaster had not predicted rain.
5. All morning the barometer was dropping rapidly.
6. The storm was slowly moving in.
7. Your dog will become fat if you feed it too much.
8. Dogs will usually eat everything you give them.
9. Generally, cats will stop when they have had enough.
10. After our team has had more practice, we will win.

Exercise 18 Identifying Adverbs That Modify Adjectives

Identify the adverbs that modify adjectives in the sentences below. For each adverb, give the adjective it modifies.

1. If you are ever really lost in the woods at night, knowing how to find the North Star may be extremely important.
2. Here is one method that is quite useful.
3. First, find the Big Dipper, which is surprisingly easy to spot.
4. It consists of seven rather bright stars in the northern sky that are arranged in the shape of a large dipper.
5. Do not confuse it with the Little Dipper, which is somewhat smaller.
6. After you have found the Big Dipper, you must be very careful to sight along the two stars that form the front of the dipper bowl.
7. They are two points on an almost straight line to the North Star.
8. This method for getting your bearings is completely reliable—except when the clouds are so dense that you cannot see the stars.
9. It would be especially wise to check the weather forecast before going on a hike.
10. Remember to take a compass, water, and a fully stocked first-aid kit.

Noun or Adverb?

Some words that can be used as nouns can also be used as adverbs.

- EXAMPLES** **Tomorrow** never seems to arrive. [*noun*]
We will leave **tomorrow**. [*Tomorrow is used as an adverb telling when.*]
- Think of this place as your **home**. [*noun*]
He was eager to come **home**. [*Home is used as an adverb telling where.*]

When identifying parts of speech, remember: A word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb is called an adverb.



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Exercise 20 Identifying Adverbs That Modify Other Adverbs

Identify all the adverbs that modify other adverbs in the sentences below. After each adverb, give the adverb it modifies.

- EXAMPLE**
- Brian is so terribly shy that he blushes when people speak to him.
 - so, terribly
 - The cat leapt to the windowsill quite agilely.
 - The books were stacked rather haphazardly.
 - Corrie knew she'd have to get up incredibly early to watch the eclipse tomorrow.
 - The tornado almost completely destroyed the barn.
 - The famous diamond was more heavily guarded than any other exhibit at the museum.
 - My brother is nearly always finished with his paper route before I am finished with mine.
 - She registered too late to be eligible for the classes she wanted.
 - In the final four minutes of the game, Isiah Thomas shot extremely accurately.
 - Usually it seems that each month goes more rapidly than the month before.
 - They walked onto the stage most calmly, as if they felt completely relaxed.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify parts of speech.

Exercise 21 Identifying Adverbs and the Words They Modify

Identify the adverb or adverbs in each of the following sentences. Then, give the word or expression that each adverb modifies. If a sentence does not contain an adverb, write *none*.

EXAMPLE 1. Have you ever thought about writing a movie script?
1. *ever—have thought*

1. Successful movie scripts, or screenplays, are written according to a very rigid formula.
2. The main character and the action of the story must grab an audience's interest quickly.
3. Almost(exactly)twenty-five minutes into the movie comes a “plot point.”
4. A plot point is a surprising event that swings the story around in another direction.
5. Most of the action and conflict occurs in the next hour of the movie.
6. Then comes another plot point, about eighty-five minutes into the movie.
7. Finally, the audience learns what happens to the characters.
8. The last time I went to a movie I really liked, I checked my watch.
9. It was quite interesting to find that the movie's timing matched this formula.
10. Try this test yourself sometime.

3. *Exactly* is modified by *Almost* and modifies *twenty-five*.

5. *none*

Exercise 22 Revising Sentences by Using Appropriate Adverbs

Revise each of the sentences below by adding at least one appropriate adverb. Try not to use the adverbs *too*, *so*, *really*, and *very*.

EXAMPLE 1. Dana, bring me the fire extinguisher!
1. *Dana, bring me the fire extinguisher now!*

1. Angelo [^]promised me that he would try to meet the train.
2. My coat was [^]torn during the long hike, so Barbara lent me her plastic poncho.
3. Engineering degrees are [^]popular with students because job opportunities in engineering are good.
4. The Wallaces are [^]settled into a new house, which they built by themselves.

Adverbs will vary.

1. *definitely*

2. *badly*

3. *particularly*

4. *comfortably*