The Basic Rules: Adverbs

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. (You can recognize adverbs easily because many of them are formed by adding -ly to an adjective, though that is not always the case.) The most common question that adverbs answer is how.

Let's look at verbs first.
- "She sang beautifully." Beautifully is an adverb that modifies the verb sang. It tells us how she sang.
- "The cellist played carelessly." Carelessly is an adverb that modifies the verb played. It tells us how the cellist played.
- “The knight fought bravely.” Bravely is an adverb that modifies the verb fought. It tells us how the knight fought.

Adverbs also modify adjectives and other adverbs.
- "That woman is extremely nice." Nice is an adjective that modifies the noun woman. Extremely is an adverb that modifies nice; it tells us how nice she is. How nice is she? She's extremely nice.
- "It was a terribly hot afternoon." Hot is an adjective that modifies the noun afternoon. Terribly is an adverb that modifies the adjective hot. How hot is it? Terribly hot.

List of Common Adverbs

- A
  - abnormally
  - abruptly
  - absently
  - absentmindedly
  - absolutely
  - accurately
  - accidentally
  - acridly
  - actually
  - adventurously
  - adversely
  - affectionately
  - afterwards
  - almost
  - always
  - angrily
  - annually
  - anxiously
  - arrogantly
  - assuredly
  - awkwardly
  - A

- B
  - badly
  - bashfully
  - beautifully
  - bitterly
  - bleakly
  - blindly
  - blissfully
  - boastfully
  - boldly
  - Bravely
  - briefly
  - brightly
  - briskly
  - broadly
  - busily
  - C

- C
  - calmly
  - carefully
  - carelessly
  - cautiously
  - certainly
  - cheaply
  - cheerfully
  - cleanly
  - clearly
  - cleverly
  - closely
  - clumsily
  - coaxingly
  - colorfully
  - commonly
  - compassionately
  - coolly
  - correctly
  - crisply
  - courageously
  - crossly
  - cruelly
  - curiously
  - coolly
  - D

- D
  - daily
  - daintily
  - dangerously
  - darkly
  - dearly
  - deceivingly
  - delicately
  - delightfully
  - deeply
  - defiantly
  - deliberately
  - delightfully
  - desperately
  - determinedly
  - diligently
  - dimly
  - E

- E
  - eagerly
  - easily
  - effectively
  - elegantly
  - energetically
  - enormously
  - enthusiastically
  - enticingly
  - entirely
  - enviably
  - equally
  - especially
  - essentially
  - even
  - evenly
  - eventually
  - evidently
  - exactly
  - excitedly
  - exclusively
  - expertly
  - extremely
  - G

- G
  - generally
  - generously
  - gently
  - gleefully
  - gradually
  - gratefully
  - greatly
  - fairly
  - faithfully
  - famously
  - far
  - fast
  - fatally
  - fearlessly
  - fearfully
  - heartily
  - ferociously
  - fervently
  - fiercely
  - finally
  - fondly
  - foolishly
  - fortunately
  - frankly
  - frantically
  - freely
  - frenetically
  - frequently
  - frightfully
  - fully
  - fundamentally
  - furiously
  - ferociously
  - fervently
  - fiercely
  - finally
  - fondly
  - foolishly
  - fortunately
  - frankly
  - frantically
  - freely
Adverb Imposters!
*Words that can look like Adverbs – but are NOT!

**Adjective Imposters**

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**Verb Imposters**

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<td>ply</td>
<td>reply</td>
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**Noun Imposters**

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<td>hillbilly</td>
<td>panoply</td>
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<td>supply</td>
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* Some words that deal with time are “double agents”. They can go both ways, depending on how you use them:

- She brushes her teeth **nightly**. (adverb)
- It is time for your **nightly** snack. (adjective)

** These words are also double agents.

*** **sly** becomes an adverb by adding another “-ly” to it, as in “slyly”.