

adjectives

adverbials

# Descriptive language

adverbs

# ADJECTIVE

An **adjective** is a word used to describe a thing, person, place, event or feeling. We can identify it by looking at how it is used:

- Before (or occasionally after) a NOUN to describe it, give more information about it.



*The weather was  
**appalling**.*



*It was an **excellent**  
cake.*

- After a verb, as its complement (the part that completes the sentence).

# ADVERB

An **adverb** is a word used to modify (tell us more about) a verb OR an adjective OR (occasionally) a whole clause:

- He **soon** began to run **faster**.
- The **really** good meal was yummy.
- **Luckily**, the fight was not serious.

**soon** modifies the verb 'began'  
**faster** modifies the verb 'run'

**really** modifies the  
adjective 'good'

**luckily** modifies the  
whole clause

## ADVERBIAL

An **adverbial** is a word, phrase or clause which acts as an adverb and is used to modify a verb or (less commonly) an adjective.

Adverbials can be...

without

over

inside

in

under

outside

beside

## Prepositional phrases

These are phrases which start with a preposition

They can be used to modify a verb.

*without using legs*  
modifies the verb 'ran'.

*The alien ran, **without using legs**,  
and then took off **over the park**.*

What does *over the park* modify?

## ADVERBIAL

An **adverbial** is a word, phrase or clause which acts as an adverb and is used to modify a verb or (less commonly) an adjective.

### Adverbials can be...

#### Noun phrases

These are expanded noun phrases which are used to modify the verb.

*Thank goodness, the baby slept **last night**.*

**last night** modifies the verb 'slept'.

***Eyes tight shut**, the baby slept **peacefully**, thank goodness.*

**Eyes tight shut** modifies the verb 'slept'.  
**peacefully** also modifies the verb 'slept'.

Descriptive language frequently consists of **adjectives**, adverbs or adverbials.

### Adjectives or phrases used as adjectives

These describe a person, thing, place, event or feeling.

describes 'mother'

*Poor* mother stared in dismay at the *filthy* kitchen.

describes 'kitchen'

describe 'the snake'

The snake felt *slithery* but not at all *slimy*.

describe 'the snake'

The cabin, *with broken windows*, looked *neglected* and *deserted*.

describe 'the cabin'

*with gold and black stripes* is the one with the most *poisonous* bite.

describe 'the party'

The party was *large* and *grand*, and many guests arrived in carriages.

describes 'that voice'

When I recognised that *sinister* voice, my fear grew *massive*.

describes 'the fear'

Descriptive language frequently consists of adjectives, **adverbs** or adverbials.

## **Adverbs**

These modify a verb, giving more information about how something was done.

*The worm ate **hungrily** through two dictionaries.*

*The cat sleeps **soundly** on the top of the fridge.*

*The swallows flew **steadily** as five nights and five days went by.*

They also modify **adjectives**.

*The **very stupid** cat faced the **seriously fierce** Alsatian dog.*

*It was a **tremendously high** jump, however you look at it.*

Descriptive language frequently consists of adjectives, adverbs or **adverbials**.

## **Adverbials**

Prepositional phrases can act as adverbs, modifying verbs.

Zoe left *in a great hurry* because she was upset.

*In front of the gate*, the horses slowed to a halt and stopped.

Anita ate her lunch *without tasting any of it*.

Noun phrases can also act as adverbs.

*Nose quivering*, the dog sniffed the wind.

The trees waved, *leaves rustling*, in the breeze.



## Read the sentences below and circle the adjectives.

- Simon was all ready to expect a treat and certainly, the present was large and exciting.
- The invisible castle was larger than even he had expected.
- When he walked through the invisible, wooden door, he hit his head on the low frame and scraped his knee along the stony wall.
- He realised then that playing in a really invisible castle could have serious disadvantages.
- How like his very kind father not to think of these things when he ordered it from the magical website.

## Discuss why the blue words are NOT adjectives.

- Simon was all ready to expect a treat and certainly, the present was **large** and **exciting**.
- The **invisible** castle was **larger** than even he had expected.
- When he walked through the **invisible**, **wooden** door, he hit his head on the **low** frame and scraped his knee along the **stony** wall.
- He realised then that playing in a **really invisible** castle could have **serious** disadvantages.
- How like his **very kind** father not to think of these things when he ordered it from the **magical** website.

Read the sentences below and circle the adverbs.

- When Amelia was hungry she rapidly grew very angry.
- Her sisters and brothers knew very well that it was definitely best to avoid her.
- One day Amelia had grown angry and had entirely eaten a passing cat.
- The cat's owners were not at all happy and fiercely denied that the cat had deserved to be eaten.
- Angrily, they threatened to sue Amelia and get her sent swiftly to jail.
- So Amelia got really angry and ate them too.

Identify which adverbs or adverbials are modifying verbs (blue), which are modifying adjectives (green) and which are modifying adverbs (purple).

- When Amelia was hungry she rapidly grew very angry.
- Her sisters and brothers knew very well that it was definitely best to avoid her.
- One day Amelia had grown angry and had entirely eaten a passing cat.
- The cat's owners were not at all happy and fiercely denied that the cat had deserved to be eaten.
- Angrily, they threatened to sue Amelia and get her sent swiftly to jail.
- So Amelia got really angry and ate them too.

Read the passage below and highlight the adjectives and the adverbs.

The tired and slightly cold zoologist was sitting quietly in her tent, when she heard, with a thrill of fear, the terrifying sound of wolves in the distance. Immediately she rose and hurriedly began to collect dry firewood from the small clearing. She hastily piled this up and started to try, without success, to light the fire. The horrible and scary noises made by the rapidly approaching wolves were coming ever closer. After a short time, she knew that the leader of the pack had silently entered her clearing. She forced herself to remain calm and steadfastly refused to turn round. Hands shaking, she lit damp match after damp match, determined to get the fire going. Then she knew that she could certainly beat them off.

There are 12 adjectives – red words, and 10 adverbs – green words.

The **tired** and **slightly cold** zoologist was sitting **quietly** in her tent, when she heard, with a thrill of fear, the **terrifying** sound of wolves in the distance. **Immediately** she rose and **hurriedly** began to collect **dry** firewood from the **small** clearing. She **hastily** piled this up and started to try, without success, to light the fire. The **horrible** and **scary** noises made by the **rapidly approaching** wolves were coming **ever closer**. After a short time, she knew that the leader of the pack had **silently** entered her clearing. She forced herself to remain **calm** and **steadfastly** refused to turn round. Instead she lit **damp** match after **damp** match, determined to get the fire going. Then she knew that she could **certainly** beat them off.

Look at the above passage again, and see if you can spot the five adverbials.

The five adverbials are shown in purple.

The tired and slightly cold zoologist was sitting quietly in her tent, when she heard, *with a thrill of fear*, the terrifying sound of wolves in the distance. Immediately she rose and hurriedly began to collect dry firewood *from the small clearing*. She hastily piled this up and started to try, *without success*, to light the fire. The horrible and scary noises made by the rapidly approaching wolves were coming ever closer. *After a short time*, she knew that the leader of the pack had silently entered her clearing. She forced herself to remain calm and steadfastly refused to turn round. *Hands shaking*, she lit damp match after damp match, determined to get the fire going. Then she knew that she could certainly beat them off.

**There are 4 prepositional phrases acting as adverbs, which verbs do they modify?**

**There is one noun phrase acting as an adverb, which verb does it modify?**

*END*