

ADVERBS WITH ACTION VERBS

Certain adverbs are formed by adding -ly to adjectives: *careful, carefully*. There is sometimes a temptation to use an adjective rather than an adverb.

NONSTANDARD	STANDARD
Dress <i>warm</i> .	Dress <i>warmly</i> .
Go <i>slow!</i>	Go <i>slowly</i> .
Sing <i>loud</i> .	Sing <i>loudly</i> .

All of the words used above as adverbs are also used as adjectives: a warm coat, a slow truck, a *loud* voice.

Most of the words that may be either adjectives or adverbs are words of one syllable. Adjectives of two or more syllables almost never have the same form for the adverb.

ex. The *careful* driver has few accidents. (adjective)
Jane *carefully* measured the coffee. (adverb)

After an action verb, use the -ly form of the modifier if the modifier has two or more syllables.

Choosing the Right Modifier. Underline the correct form in each sentence.

Example: Susan mended her torn jeans (careful, carefully).

1. Mr. Jones called (angry, angrily) to us.
2. The old woman made her way (careful, carefully) up the stairs.
3. Gwen framed the picture (painstaking, painstakingly).
4. The assignment was (easy, easily).
5. Ms. Owens (quick, quickly) made her way through the crowded hall.
6. Sheila injured her elbow (bad, badly) when she fell.
7. Tim entered the room (cautious, cautiously).
8. Did the man speak (threatening, threateningly) to you?
9. The clerk nodded (cool, coolly) to me when I approached him.
10. Dave is working at a (steady, steadily) pace on his project.
11. Sally approached the police officer (calm, calmly).
12. The little boys clattered (noisy, noisily) down the stairs.
13. I can see (clear, clearly) how I should do this problem.
14. Mary will (certain, certainly) be late for the meeting.
15. The two boys talked (quiet, quietly) for an hour.
16. Ann's picture was displayed (prominent, prominently) on the wall.
17. Bob stared (moody, moodily) out the window.
18. The lecturer peered (uneasy, uneasily) at the audience.
19. The little girl gazed (shy, shyly) at the President's wife.
20. In telling us the news, Sam looked (sad, sadly).

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