



## MODIFIERS: ADVERBS

9a

### Forms

Adverbs have three forms: base (or positive), comparative, and superlative. The base form is used when describing one thing without comparing it to anything else.

- The band Sign's cover of an Iron Maiden song pleased the crowd **immensely**.

The comparative form of an adverb compares one thing to another and uses the suffix *-er* or the words *more* or *less* to make the comparison. Usually, you will use *more* or *less* for adverbs with three or more syllables. Consult a dictionary if you are not sure.

- The bass pounded **more heavily** than in the original song.

The superlative form of an adverb compares three or more things and uses the suffix *-est* or the words *most* or *least* to make the comparison. Usually, you will use *most* or *least* for adverbs with three or more syllables. Consult a dictionary if you are not sure.

- Out of all the concerts I have seen this year, the audience in Iceland reacted the **most enthusiastically** of all.

Some adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

- We thought their cover of the song was performed **better** than the original.

## Irregular adverbs

Base	Comparative	Superlative
well	better	best
badly	worse	worst
far (distance)	farther	farthest
far	further	furthest
much	more	most

### 9b

### Types

Adverbs can be single words, but they can also be part of larger adverbial phrases. When they occur inside a larger phrase, they can be pre-modified by other adverbs (such as *quite*, *rather*, *very*, *so*), and they can also be post-modified by a prepositional phrase (such as *for her*).

Single adverb → During their performance, they sing **forcefully**.

Adverb with pre-modifier → During their performance, they sing **quite forcefully**.

Adverb with post-modifier → During their performance, they sing **forcefully to the audience**.

Adverb with pre-modifier and post-modifier → During their performance, they sing **quite forcefully to the audience**.

### EXERCISE 1

Directions: Underline each adverb phrase in the following sentences.

1. Leaving so early for Iceland shocked our systems.
2. Even though we left early, we barely made the departure time.



3. Sally moved quite quickly for her, but she still was rather slow.
4. We all slept on the plane; consequently, we went straight to the concert.
5. To see Sign in Iceland was frankly one of the highlights of my life.

## 9c

## Functions

Adverb functions include those that modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, and entire clauses. An adverb's main function is to describe how, when, where, why, how frequently, and how much.

When (modifying the verb) → We **left immediately** for

V

Iceland when we discovered the band Sign was having a free concert.

Where (modifying the verb) → I **would like to**

V

**travel there** for the music and the adventure.

Why (modifying a clause) → I **have wanted to see**

Ind. Clause

**the band because of their music.**

How frequently (modifying an adjective) → Seeing the band in concert was **more exciting** than any of us had imagined.

Adj

How much (modifying another adverb) → I yelled **more frequently** at the concert than at any other I have ever attended.

Adv

How (modifying an entire clause) → **Seriously, I have never had a better time on a trip.**

Ind. Clause



Adverbs, in the form of adverbial conjunctions (also called conjunctive adverbs or transitions), can connect two sentences together. See 15f for

more information on what punctuation can be used when joining two sentences together with transitions.

Adverbial conjunction → I wanted to see the band; **however**, I was late for the plane.

### Common adverbial conjunctions

accordingly

certainly

consequently

furthermore

hence

however

indeed

instead

moreover

nevertheless

nonetheless

otherwise

similarly

thereafter

therefore

thus

undoubtedly

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