

Adverbs and the Words They Modify

14e. An *adverb* modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells *how, when, where, or to what extent (how long or how much)*.

EXAMPLES The professor arrived **early** for the debate. [*Early* modifies the verb *arrived*, telling *when*.]

Did that person seem **too** busy to help us? [*Too* modifies the adjective *busy*, telling *how much*.]

EXERCISE A In the sentences below, underline each adverb once and the word or words it modifies twice. Then, draw an arrow from each adverb to the word or words it modifies.

Example 1. I could have danced forever, but I was very tired.

- Small children certainly do need careful supervision.
- Hector proudly showed his parents his excellent report card.
- Josh worked on the project enthusiastically.
- Surely we are meeting at my house?
- I have never eaten in an outrageously expensive restaurant.
- Kuni carefully felt his way through the totally dark hall.
- The neighbors suddenly seemed too ready to leave for their summer vacation.
- The defendant responded quite sarcastically to the prosecuting attorney.
- You can eat inexpensively in this restaurant.
- Odessa ran rather quickly to get her purse and jacket.

EXERCISE B In the space above each of the following sentences, add at least one adverb. Use a caret (^) to mark where each adverb should be inserted.

Example 1. Would you ^{someday} like to follow the route of one of Marco Polo's trips?

- She called me from Houston with an urgent message.
- Tina was lucky to find her gold ring.
- The dog waited for its owner's return.
- Construction crews will begin work at 6:00 A.M.
- Would you mow the grass and wash the car for me?