

Adverbs and the Words They Modify

12b. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

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

EXAMPLES **Soon** many birds will be flying **south** for the winter. [The adverb *soon*, telling *when*, and the adverb *south*, telling *where*, modify the verb *will be flying*.]

Amelia appears **thoroughly** confident on the stage. [The adverb *thoroughly*, telling *to what extent*, modifies the adjective *confident*.]

Luis left the room **quite suddenly**. [The adverb *quite*, telling *to what extent*, modifies the adverb *suddenly*. *Suddenly*, telling *how*, modifies the verb *left*.]

EXERCISE Circle the adverbs in the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow from each adverb to the word it modifies.

Example 1. In the Arctic Circle, the cold winds can cut very quickly to the bone.



1. Only lichens and a few other hardy plants can actually grow in the Arctic Circle.
2. Lichens can be easily seen in a light dusting of snow.
3. Sometimes caribou feed on the lichens.
4. Would wolves be closely following the caribou?
5. Most people never experience the harsh environment of the tundra.
6. Is the blimp somewhat risky for passenger travel?
7. Thuan really liked the airships.
8. Airships are an extremely effective means of advertising.
9. They float magically among the clouds.
10. Current designs seem much safer than those of the past.
11. The submarine descended rather slowly.
12. No bird flies more swiftly than the peregrine falcon.
13. Janine's unusual invention works quite effectively.
14. For a beginner, Eugene plays chess extraordinarily well.
15. The team is playing much better.
16. The qualifying exam for a pilot's license is extremely difficult.
17. The song ended rather abruptly, I thought.
18. Turn left at the stop sign and proceed slowly.
19. If you come early to the concert, you can easily find a seat.