

1 Here's the Idea

An adjective limits the meaning of a noun or pronoun. Words, like adjectives, that describe or give more specific information about the meanings of other words are said to **modify** those words.

We watched a terrific game on the outdoor field.

MODIFIES

MODIFIES

↑ ADJECTIVE

↑ ADJECTIVE

An adjective answers the question *what kind, which one, how many, or how much*.

Adjectives

What Kind	Which One	How Many	How Much
fast ponies green field steamy afternoon	this seat that goal these friends	four players most fans both teams	no time more noise enough speed

Articles

The most common adjectives are the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*. *A* and *an* are called the **indefinite article**. They are used to refer to unspecified members of groups of people, places, things, or ideas. Use *a* before words beginning with consonant sounds and *an* before words beginning with vowel sounds.

A fan yelled as we looked for an exit.

The is the **definite article**, used to refer to a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

The coach yelled as we left through the exit.

Proper Adjectives

Proper adjectives are formed from proper nouns. They are capitalized and often end in *n*, *an*, *ian*, *ese*, or *ish*.

Persian players originated the sport of polo.

British players popularized the game in India.

Proper Nouns Shakespeare, Jamaica, Taiwan

Proper Adjectives Shakespearean, Jamaican, Taiwanese

1 Here's the Idea

An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Mike scrambled quickly from the icy pond.

VERB

MODIFIES

He was extremely cold.

ADJECTIVE

MODIFIES

He had fallen into the pond quite accidentally.

ADVERB

MODIFIES

An adverb answers the question *where*, *when*, *how*, or *to what extent*.

Adverbs	
Where	there, here, downstairs, northward
When	yesterday, soon, daily, never, again
How	slowly, happily, well, brightly
To what extent	almost, nearly, completely, somewhat

Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to adjectives. Sometimes a slight change in spelling is necessary.

strong + *-ly* = **strongly**

honest + *-ly* = **honestly**

true + *-ly* = **truly**

happy + *-ly* = **happily**

Other Commonly Used Adverbs

afterward	forth	near	still
already	hard	next	straight
also	instead	not	then
back	late	now	today
even	long	often	tomorrow
far	low	slow	too
fast	more	sometimes	yet

An **intensifier** is an adverb that defines the degree of an adjective or another adverb. Intensifiers always precede the adjectives or adverbs they modify.

EMPHASIZES

Fortunately, Mike was an **extremely** fast thinker.

↑
INTENSIFIER

Intensifiers				
almost	more	only	really	too
extremely	most	quite	so	truly
just	nearly	rather	somewhat	very

