

Adjectives and adverbs

Adjectives and adverbs are parts of speech and are used to provide additional information about other words. Adjectives and adverbs are also known as [content words](#) - words that provide important information in sentences. Sometimes students are not sure when to use an adverb or an adjective. This short guide provides an overview and rules to using both adjectives and adverbs.

Adjectives

Adjectives Modify Nouns

- Adjectives are placed directly before a noun.

Examples:

Tom is an **excellent** singer.

I bought a **comfortable** chair.

She's thinking about buying a **new** house.

- Adjectives are also used in simple sentences with the verb 'to be'. In this case, the adjective describes the subject of the sentence:

Examples:

Jack is **happy**.

Peter was very **tired**.

Mary'll be **excited** when you tell her.

- Adjectives are used with sense verbs or verbs of appearance (feel, taste, smell, sound, appear and seem) to modify the noun which comes before the verb:

Examples:

The fish tasted **awful**.

Did you see Peter? He seemed very **upset**.

I'm afraid the meat smelled **rotten**.

Adverbs

Adverbs Modify Verbs, Adjectives and Other Adverbs

- Adverbs are easily recognized because the end in '-ly' (with a few exceptions!):