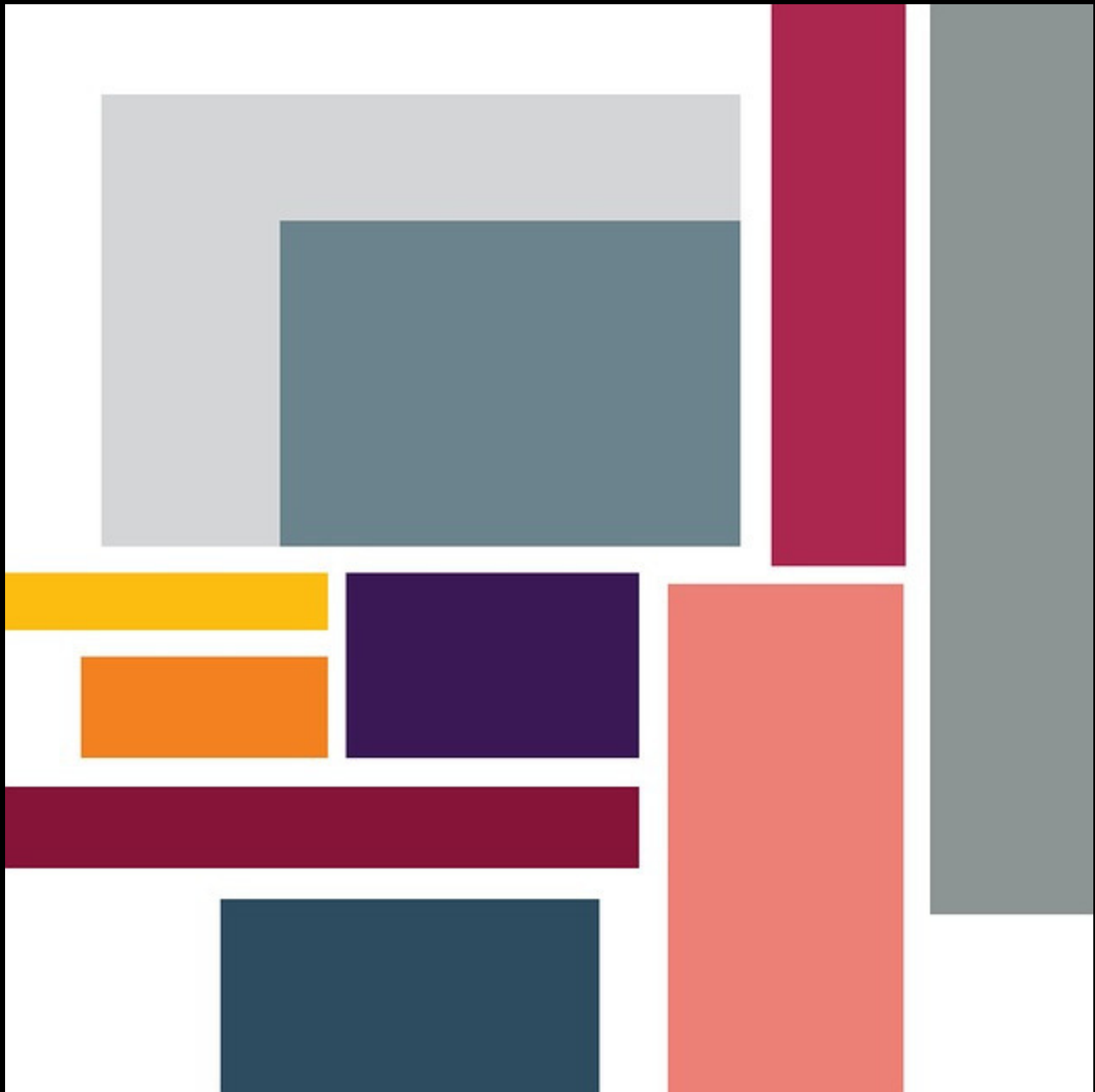


Adjectives vs. Adverbs



Adjectives vs. Adverbs

Lesson & Exercises

Adjectives modify nouns, pronouns, and other adjectives. They answer the question *what is x like?*

They often take the following endings:

• -al	critical
• -ent	different
• -ful	wonderful
• -ible	incredible
• -ic	enthusiastic
• -ive	expensive
• -ous	continuous

Adjectives can be placed before a noun or an adjective, or after a linking verb. Common linking verbs include *to be*, *to become/turn/grow*, *to say/remain*, *to seem/appear*, *to feel*, *to taste*, and *to smell*.

- I finished the **difficult** assignment. (Adjective modifies noun.)
- We're standing in front of the **big** white house. (Adjective modifies adjective.)
- We're standing in front of the big **white** one. (Adjective modifies pronoun.)
- The waves became **calm**. (Adjective modifies noun, after a linking verb.)

In addition, present participles (*-ing*) and past participles (typically *-ed*, but also *-en*, *-ung*, *-unk*, and *-own* for irregular verbs) can act as adjectives.

- The **singing** bird sat outside my window.
- The chicken was accompanied by **mixed** vegetables.
- The divers explored the **sunken** ship.

Note that nationalities, numbers, and professions can all act as adjectives.

- My dog is an **Italian** greyhound.
- There are **five** books on the table.
- **Architect** I.M. Pei is known for his use of glass.

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. They answer the question *how is x done?*

They are usually formed by adding *-ly* to the adjective.

- When adjectives already end in *-l*, that letter is doubled before the *-y*.
- For adjectives that already end in *-y*, the adverb is formed by adding *-ily*.

Adjective	Adverb
clear	clearly
careful	carefully
lucky	luckily

- He walks **slowly**. (Adverb modifies verb.)
- Mr. Samson is a **highly** interesting conversationalist. (Adverb modifies adjective.)
- She runs **very** quickly. (Adverb modifies adverb.)

Note the following **irregular** adjectives: the adverb form of *good* is *well*, and the adverb form of *fast* is also *fast*.

Incorrect: He did **good** on the final exam.

Correct: He did **well** on the final exam.

Correct: She is a **fast** runner. (As adjective, modifying the noun *runner*)

Correct: She runs **fast**. (As adverb, modifying the verb *runs*)