Adverbs as a Word Class

Worksheet 1: Forming Adverbs — Rules and Exceptions

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: Spelling Rules

Rule	Examples	Careful!
Most adjectives: add **-ly**	quiet → quietly polite → politely	Keep the *e*: nice → nicely
Ends in consonant + **-y**: change to **-ily**	happy → happily easy → easily	shy → shyly (vowel + y)
Ends in **-le**: change to **-ly**	simple → simply terrible → terribly	whole → wholly
Ends in **-ic**: add **-ally**	automatic → automatically	public → publicly
Irregular	good → well	NOT "goodly"
Same form (flat adverbs)	fast, hard, late, early, straight	NOT "fastly", "hardly" (= almost not)

Part A – Complete the Table

#	Adjective	Adverb	Rule number used
1	angry		
2	gentle		
3	good		
4	dramatic		
5	late		
6	comfortable		
7	heavy		
8	hard		
9	true		
10	quiet		

Part B – Not Every -ly Word Is an Adverb!

Some **adjectives** also end in **-ly**: *friendly, lonely, silly, lovely, ugly, elderly, likely*.
We cannot say "She smiled friendlily." We say: **She smiled in a friendly way.**

Write ADJ (adjective) or ADV (adverb) next to each word.

1. lovely _____	2. slowly _____	3. silly _____	4. politely _____
5. friendly _____	6. quickly _____	7. lonely _____	8. easily _____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Adjective or Adverb?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: Which One Do I Use?

Use the ADJECTIVE	Use the ADVERB
before a noun → a **careful** driver	after an action verb → she drives **carefully**
after *be* → he **is quiet**	before an adjective → **terribly** cold
after linking verbs: *look, feel, seem, taste, smell, sound, become* → the soup tastes **good**	before another adverb → **very** quickly

Part A – Circle the Correct Word

1. Your idea sounds (great / greatly).
2. He answered the question (correct / correctly).
3. I felt (terrible / terribly) after the exam.
4. The film was (terrible / terribly) boring.
5. She is a (hard / hardly) worker.
6. We (hard / hardly) know each other.
7. This cake tastes (wonderful / wonderfully).
8. He plays the guitar (wonderful / wonderfully).
9. The train arrived (late / lately) again.
10. I haven't seen her (late / lately).
11. Please be (quiet / quietly)!
12. Please speak (quiet / quietly)!

Part B – Fill the Gap

> **Use the word in brackets. Decide: adjective or adverb?**

1. My grandmother speaks very _____. *(slow)*
2. You look _____ today. Are you ill? *(tired)*
3. He passed the exam _____. *(easy)*
4. The exam was quite _____. *(easy)*
5. She sings _____, but she plays the piano _____. *(bad / good)*
6. This milk smells _____. *(strange)*

7. The team worked _____ and won. *(hard)*

8. It rained _____ all weekend. *(heavy)*

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Recognising Adverbs in a Sentence

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: An Adverb Answers a Question

Adverbs are a word class. You can recognise one because it answers a question about the verb:

Question	Adverb	Example
How?	quickly, well, badly, carefully	She works **carefully**.
When?	now, yesterday, soon, early, later	We arrived **early**.
Where?	here, there, outside, upstairs	The cat is **outside**.
How often?	always, usually, often, never	He **never** complains.
How much?	very, quite, really, too	It is **really** hot.

You will study these groups in detail in the worksheets on Types of Adverbs. Here, we only need to recognise them all as adverbs.

Part A – Underline the Adverbs

> **Underline every adverb. Write the number of adverbs in the box. Careful — some sentences have two.**

#	Sentence	How many?
1	The doctor spoke quietly and explained everything clearly.	
2	We usually eat dinner outside in summer.	
3	My phone is very old, but it still works well.	
4	He is a friendly man and he always helps me.	
5	She drove home slowly because it was raining heavily.	
6	I nearly missed the bus this morning.	

Part B – Which Word Does the Adverb Describe?

> **The adverb is in bold. Write the word it describes, and say if that word is a VERB, ADJECTIVE or ADVERB.**

#	Sentence	It describes…	Word class
1	He shouted **angrily**.		
2	The soup is **too** salty.		
3	She sings **incredibly** well.		

4	They left **suddenly**.		
5	This test is **quite** difficult.		
6	He drives **extremely** fast.		

Part C – Position

> **Rewrite each sentence with the adverb in brackets in the correct place.**

1. She answers her emails. *(immediately)*

   _____

2. I am late for work. *(never)*

   _____

3. He speaks four languages. *(fluently)*

   _____

4. They finished the project. *(yesterday)*

   _____

5. The children play in the park. *(often)*

   _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Correcting, Reading and Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Part A – Find the Mistake

> **Each sentence has one mistake with an adjective or adverb. Correct it.**

#	Sentence	Correction
1	He speaks English very good.	
2	She drives too fastly on the motorway.	
3	The dog looked at me friendlily.	
4	I am feeling terribly today.	
5	They worked hardly all night.	
6	She opened quietly the door.	
7	This soup tastes deliciously.	
8	He arrived lately to the meeting.	

Part B – Reading

Ben started his new job last month. At first he worked quite slowly, because he wanted to check everything carefully. His manager was very friendly and told him not to worry. "You will get faster," she said. "Nobody learns this job easily."

Now Ben works much faster, and he hardly ever makes a mistake. He still arrives early every morning and he always speaks politely to the customers. He is not a perfect employee — he answers the telephone badly — but he is learning quickly, and everyone thinks he is doing well.

Questions

1. Find **eight** adverbs in the text.

   _____

   _____

2. Find one **-ly word that is an adjective**, not an adverb.

   _____

3. The text says "he **hardly ever** makes a mistake". Does he make many mistakes or very few?

   _____

4. Why is "he answers the telephone badly" correct, and not "bad"?

   _____

Part C – Writing

Write **80–100 words** about a person you know and how they do their job or their hobby. Use at least **six adverbs**, including at least one irregular adverb (*well, fast, hard, late, early*). Underline every adverb you use.

Word count: _____ Adverbs used: _____ / 6

Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A2 Level, Adverbs as a Word Class

Worksheet 1 – Part A

#	Adjective	Adverb	Rule
1	angry	**angrily**	consonant + y → ily
2	gentle	**gently**	-le → -ly
3	good	**well**	irregular
4	dramatic	**dramatically**	-ic → -ally
5	late	**late**	same form (*lately* = recently)
6	comfortable	**comfortably**	-le → -ly
7	heavy	**heavily**	consonant + y → ily
8	hard	**hard**	same form (*hardly* = almost not)
9	true	**truly**	drop the e (exception)
10	quiet	**quietly**	add -ly

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 ADJ · 2 ADV · 3 ADJ · 4 ADV · 5 ADJ · 6 ADV · 7 ADJ · 8 ADV

> *The -ly adjectives are formed from nouns (friend + ly, love + ly), not from adjectives. That is a useful test to offer stronger students.*

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 great · 2 correctly · 3 terrible · 4 terribly · 5 hard · 6 hardly · 7 wonderful · 8 wonderfully · 9 late · 10 lately · 11 quiet · 12 quietly

> *Items 3/4 and 5/6 and 9/10 are minimal pairs. Drill them orally: the difference is not the meaning of the adjective but the job the word is doing in the sentence.*

Worksheet 2 – Part B

#	Answer
1	**slowly**
2	**tired** *(look = linking verb)*
3	**easily**
4	**easy** *(after 'was')*

5	**badly / well**
6	**strange** *(smell = linking verb)*
7	**hard** *(NOT 'hardly')*
8	**heavily**

Worksheet 3 – Part A

#	Adverbs	Number
1	**quietly, clearly**	**2**
2	**usually, outside**	**2**
3	**very, still, well**	**3**
4	**always** *('friendly' is an adjective here)*	**1**
5	**home, slowly, heavily**	**3** *(accept 2 if 'home' is not identified)*
6	**nearly**	**1**

Worksheet 3 – Part B

#	It describes…	Word class
1	**shouted**	**VERB**
2	**salty**	**ADJECTIVE**
3	**well**	**ADVERB**
4	**left**	**VERB**
5	**difficult**	**ADJECTIVE**
6	**fast**	**ADVERB**

> *This exercise is the heart of the word class: an adverb can modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb. An adjective can only modify a noun.*

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 She answers her emails immediately. **2** I am never late for work. *(after be)* **3** He speaks four languages fluently. **4** They finished the project yesterday. **5** The children often play in the park. *(before the main verb)*

Worksheet 4 – Part A

#	Correction

1	**He speaks English very well.**
2	**She drives too fast on the motorway.**
3	**The dog looked at me in a friendly way.**
4	**I am feeling terrible today.** *(feel = linking verb)*
5	**They worked hard all night.**
6	**She opened the door quietly.**
7	**This soup tastes delicious.**
8	**He arrived late to the meeting.**

Worksheet 4 – Part B

Q	Answer
1	**quite, slowly, carefully, very, easily, much, faster, hardly (ever), early, always, politely, badly, quickly, well** *(any eight)*
2	**friendly**
3	**Very few. 'Hardly ever' means 'almost never'.**
4	**'Answers' is an action verb, so it needs an adverb, not an adjective.**

Worksheet 4 – Part C: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Range	Six or more adverbs, including one irregular form	0–4
Formation	Spelling rules applied correctly (-ily, -ly, -ally)	0–3
Adjective vs adverb	Correct choice after linking verbs and action verbs	0–3
Position	Adverb not placed between verb and object	0–3
Task & length	80–100 words; content relevant and coherent	0–2

> *Common A2 errors to watch for: "goodly / fastly / hardly (for 'hard')", the friendly → friendlily overgeneralisation, and adjective forms after action verbs. Reward risk-taking with new -ly forms even where spelling slips.*