

Writing Guide: Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. **Adverbs** modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.

Adjectives

Ex.: The lonely boy petted the black-and-white cat.

(The adjective *lonely* modifies the noun *boy*, and the adjective *black-and-white* modifies the noun *cat*.)

Ex.: The students are very talkative because there is a young, good-looking teacher teaching the class today.

(The adjective *talkative* modifies the noun *students*, and the adjectives *young* and *good-looking* modify the noun *teacher*.)

Ex.: Everyone is happy: she seems lenient and nice.

(The adjective *happy* modifies the pronoun *everyone*, and the adjectives *lenient* and *nice* modify the pronoun *she*.)

Adverbs

Ex.: The cellist played well, and the audience applauded enthusiastically.

(The adverb *well* modifies the verb *played*, and the adverb *enthusiastically* modifies the verb *applauded*.)

Ex.: Although the summers in Maryland are extremely humid, the winters are quite mild.

(The adverb *extremely* modifies the adjective *humid*, and the adverb *quite* modifies the adjective *mild*.)

Ex.: An ice cube melts very quickly when it's dropped into water that is boiling so rapidly.

(The adverb *quickly* modifies the verb *melts*, and the adverb *very* modifies the adverb *quickly*; the adverb *rapidly* modifies the verb *is boiling*, and the adverb *so* modifies the adverb *rapidly*.)