

4.6 Adverbs

We use adverbs with:

- verbs:
Are you **sitting comfortably**?
- adjectives:
The living room is **really beautiful**.
- other adverbs:
We drove **incredibly slowly** because of the traffic jams.

Adverbs are usually formed by adding **-ly** to an adjective (soft – softly).

In other cases:

- for adjectives ending in **-le**: the **-e** changes into **-y** (possible – possibly),
- for adjectives ending in a consonant + **-y**: **-y** changes into **-i** and we add **-ly** (happy – happily).

Some adverbs take the same form as adjectives:
hard – hard, fast – fast, late – late, early – early.

We use adverbs to define verbs:

- directly after the verb:
She **dances beautifully**.
- after an object, if it is directly after the verb:
We **ate our breakfast quickly** and left for our holidays.

We form the comparative for most adverbs with **more** and the superlative with **the most**:

beautifully – more beautifully – the most beautifully.

Adverbs with the same form as adjectives take the same comparative and superlative forms as the adjectives:
low – lower – the lowest.

Some adverbs take irregular comparative and superlative forms:

- well – better – the best
- badly – worse – the worst

We can use **adverbs of degree** before both adjectives and adverbs to modify their meaning:

- a little/a bit/slightly:
Sue says that living in the suburbs is **slightly better** now because there are more shops.
- quite/rather/pretty:
Since we redecorated the room, it looks **pretty good**.
- really/extremely/completely:
You need to move this chest of drawers **extremely carefully** because it is an antique.

1 Choose the correct option.

- This town is *well* / *extremely* crowded in the summer.
- You've looked after your garden *good* / *well*.
- The dates in this book are *historic* / *historically* incorrect.
- Nick works *hard* / *hardly* to make his home beautiful.
- The men painted the outside of the house *bad* / *badly*.
- He got up *late* / *lately* this morning and missed the bus.
- It's *completely* / *a bit* too dark to read in here.
- The children are playing *surprisingly quiet* / *quietly* in the garden.

2 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- father / the / my / cleans / rather / house / quickly

- you've / beautifully / your / decorated / room

- pancakes / makes / pretty / good / Janice

- your / mine / bigger / is / slightly / wardrobe / than

- the / carefully / door / close / extremely / front

- loudly / Laura / the / housework / does / really

3 Make adverbs from the adjectives in the box. Then complete the sentences with the correct adverbs.

[careful easy fast good lucky slow]

- You can _____ have a party in this cosy cottage.
- How _____ do you play the piano, Bjorn?
- Please do the washing-up _____. I don't want you to break my expensive plates.
- Never drive _____ in a small village – even when you are in a hurry.
- I love walking _____ through the city centre when I have lots of time.
- I missed the bus, but _____ there was another one in twenty minutes.

4 UNIT REVIEW Choose the correct answer, A, B or C, to complete the text.

Moving from the city centre and living in the countryside was very strange for me at the beginning. To start with, it is ¹_____ quiet compared to living in the city as there is almost no traffic on the roads. We live in a small village and there aren't too many terraced or semi-detached houses. There are beautiful, ²_____ designed stone cottages – most of them with only one or two floors. We live in a bungalow which is ³_____ spacious. My room, however, is small – but it is very cosy. It's not very entertaining here – there aren't many shops or cafés but there are some amazing ⁴_____ monuments nearby. I especially like the ruins of the old castle. We walk there sometimes at the weekends and it's such a fascinating place with lots of gripping stories about it from the past. There are ⁵_____ views there too, and this Sunday my family and I ⁶_____ a picnic there. I don't miss life in the city at all!

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|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 A a bit | B extremely | C the most |
| 2 A tradition | B traditional | C traditionally |
| 3 A pretty | B a little | C slightly |
| 4 A history | B historic | C historical |
| 5 A lush | B scorching | C breathtaking |
| 6 A will have | B are having | C am going to have |