

Using Adverbs to Improve Sentences

Remember that **adverbs** can tell more about verbs. They tell **how**, **when**, or **where** actions happen. You can improve your sentences with adverbs. Use adverbs to add descriptive details so that readers can picture the action. Too many adverbs, however, can make a sentence confusing.

- **Original sentence:** Eduardo placed the photograph in the box.
- **Adverb adds detail:** Eduardo gently placed the photograph in the box.
- **Too many adverbs:** Eduardo gently, carefully, and cautiously placed the photograph in the box.

A Each sentence below uses too many adverbs. Choose one adverb from each sentence. Write the sentence using only that adverb.

1. Dennis frequently visits Grandpa Joe often. **2.** When they are together, they normally, usually play card games. **3.** Occasionally, they take long walks in the park often. **4.** They talk quietly, softly to each other. **5.** Grandpa Joe carefully, thoughtfully, and slowly teaches Dennis about the animals and trees in the park. **6.** Dennis is incredibly, immensely, and extremely excited when he visits his grandfather.

Write an adverb from the box to add detail to each sentence.

joyfully forever there

- The memory album is displayed ____ on the table. (where)
- My happy family smiled ____ in the group photo. (how)
- This album is something we will treasure _____. (when)

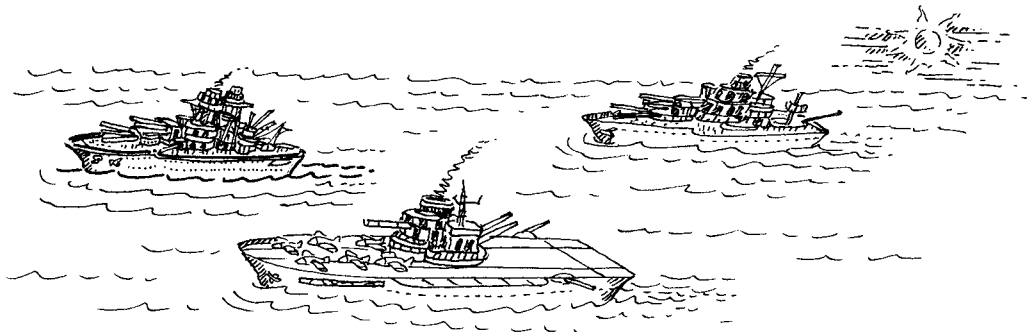
UNIT 4 GRAMMAR

B Write an adverb of your own to add detail to each sentence. The words in () tell which kind of adverb to use.

1. I ____ enjoy fishing with Uncle Charlie. (when)
2. We sit ____ out there on the lake. (how)
3. We ____ go out on rainy days. (when)
4. Sometimes the little boat rocks ____ on the lake. (how)
5. I cast my line ____ and wait for a bite. (where)
6. The fish swim ____ below the surface. (how)
7. I reel in my line ____ when I feel a tug. (how)
8. Uncle Charlie leans ____ to help me land the fish. (where)

C Write an adverb to make each sentence more vivid.

9. ____ I traveled many hours to visit my relatives.
10. I ____ love visiting my relatives.
11. Grandma ____ gives me a big hug when I visit her.
12. Grandpa ____ tells stories about what life was like years ago.
13. We sit ____ by the fireplace and exchange stories.
14. ____ Grandpa talks about the years he spent in the Navy.
15. Everybody listens ____ to his stories about ships.



UNIT 4 GRAMMAR

Review and Assess

Each sentence uses too many adverbs. Choose one adverb from each sentence. Write the sentence using only that adverb.

1. I was completely, totally, absolutely surprised when Grandfather handed me the present.
2. Then I immediately, quickly, rapidly opened the small package.
3. It was obviously, definitely, really a book, but the pages were blank!
4. "How come the pages are blank, Grandfather?" I asked unhappily, dejectedly, sadly.
5. "You can use the book to write down your memories," he cheerfully, excitedly, pleasantly replied.

Read the paragraph. Write the letter of the adverb from each sentence.

6. Some traditions are passed down orally. 7. Often traditions are presented through stories or tales. 8. People use tape recorders to clearly record their family's stories. 9. Usually a younger family member will interview an older family member. 10. Families certainly value these oral histories.

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| 6. A Some | C passed |
| B traditions | D orally |
| 7. A Often | C tales |
| B presented | D stories |
| 8. A People | C record |
| B recorders | D clearly |
| 9. A interview | C family |
| B will | D Usually |
| 10. A oral | C value |
| B certainly | D these |

