

Adjectives and Adverbs

What Are Adjectives and Adverbs?

An adjective is a word that describes a noun:

the **colourful** butterfly a **delicious** meal **sunny** Spain

It is used to add extra detail and description in sentences, giving the reader a clearer image of what is being written about.

By year 3, your child will have also been introduced to the concept of adverbs and will be using them in their writing. Adverbs are used to describe how something happens. They clarify and give extra detail to a verb, answering questions about where, when, how or how often something happened.

The cat moved **stealthily**. “Who’s there?” she asked **anxiously**.

Adverbs can also be used to ‘modify’ – or give extra information about – an adjective or another adverb.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with adjectives and adverbs, below are a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to use adjectives and adverbs, both in their spoken language and in their writing.

Read, Read, Read!

Look at a paragraph of your child’s reading book together. Pick out the adjectives and adverbs and discuss their effect on building up a picture in the reader’s mind.

Famous Faces

Collect a selection of pictures of well-known people or just write their names on a piece of paper. Take it in turns to pick one of the celebrities and describe them using three adjectives. Can your child guess who you are describing?

Adjective Swap

Find a great adjective in a story you are reading with your child. Think about another adjective you could use instead. What effect does this have? Think about opposites as well. How does the description of a place or character change if an ‘opposite’ adjective is used instead?

Play ‘Fortunately, Unfortunately’

This is a great introduction to the concept of fronted adverbials – words or phrases that start a sentence telling you where, when or how something is about to happen. Each sentence must begin alternately with ‘fortunately’ and ‘unfortunately’. For example, ‘Fortunately, I went to the beach today.’ ‘Unfortunately, it rained.’ ‘Fortunately, I had my umbrella with me.’ ‘Unfortunately, it had a hole in it,’ and so on. This game can get silly very quickly and is great fun. You can also try variations, such as ‘happily, sadly’, ‘luckily and unluckily’.

Step 1

Adjectives and Adverbs

In year 3, your child will build on their existing knowledge about adjectives and adverbs. They will recognise that adjectives are used to describe nouns (objects, people, places, feelings) and will continue to use them in their writing to add detail.

They will also know that adverbs give extra information about a verb, telling us where, when, how or how often an action happens. Many adverbs end in -ly but there are lots of exceptions (e.g. then, next and soon) which your child will now recognise. Take a look at the adjectives listed on **this word mat**.



Adjectives and Adverbs in Sentences

Your child will continue to use adjectives and adverbs in their creative writing during lessons at school, adding detail to descriptions of characters, settings and the action of the story. Using adverbs and adjectives correctly adds sophistication to your child's writing as well as helping them to broaden their vocabulary.

This activity encourages your child to take a simple sentence and enhance its meaning by adding adjectives and adverbs to increase detail and effect.

Step 2



Step 3

Adjective and Adverb Examples

Your child will continue to collect together a wider variety of different examples of adjectives and adverbs to use in their writing. This helps to broaden their vocabulary as well as to improve the quality of their written work. Our word mats and posters are an excellent visual guide for your child to use as a reference when writing. **This adverb word mat**, for example, clearly breaks adverbs down into groups of adverbs of time, place and manner.

Adjective and Adverb Synonyms

At this stage, your child will be encouraged to look beyond using 'ordinary' words for adjectives and adverbs and use the 'best words possible'. These are often called 'powerful' adjectives and adverbs – alternative words that have a more vivid impact on the reader. For example, if your child is describing someone walking slowly (adverb), they could use a different adverb such as 'hesitantly' or 'leisurely' to convey the same meaning more vividly. Words with a similar meaning are called synonyms. Can your child use synonyms to improve these sentences?

Step 4

