

The Adverb

12b. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells *where, when, how, or to what extent (how much or how long)*.

EXAMPLES The popularity of television grew **slowly**. [*Slowly* modifies the verb *grew*, telling *how*.]

Some people were **rather** pessimistic about the future of television. [*Rather* modifies the adjective *pessimistic*, telling *to what extent*.]

Others had believed **quite strongly** in its potential. [*Quite* modifies the adverb *strongly*, telling *to what extent*. *Strongly* modifies the verb *had believed*, telling *how*.]

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, underline the adverb(s).

Example 1. The contestants arrived surprisingly early.

1. Each skater practiced nearby.
2. The fans waited impatiently.
3. The skaters moved quite gracefully.
4. One skater seemed very nervous.
5. She stopped practicing rather early.
6. She sat silently and waited.
7. Her coach came quickly to see her.
8. He calmly encouraged her.
9. She began to skate quite skillfully.
10. Another skater moved somewhat reluctantly.
11. He timidly approached his coach.
12. His coach whispered softly to him.
13. The skater nodded enthusiastically.
14. He began to feel surprisingly confident.
15. He performed exceedingly well.
16. Then several other skaters danced.
17. Other skaters spun extremely well.
18. The fans applauded approvingly.
19. The judges decided the scores quickly.
20. The competition was unusually successful.