

ADVERBS

Adverbs are used to describe verbs. They answer **Where**, **When**, and **How** questions. Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to the end of adjectives. Other common endings are *-ways* as in *sideways* and *-wise* as in *lengthwise*. Some adverbs, however, do not have special suffixes. Commonly used adverbs are listed below. Discuss their meanings and have students use them in sentences and original stories.

Common Adverbs

Ending in *-ly*

accurately
anxiously
awfully
awkwardly
badly
boldly
bravely
briefly
brightly
calmly
carefully
carelessly
cautiously
cheerfully
clearly
correctly
deliberately
doubtfully
eagerly
easily
enormously
evenly
exactly
foolishly
fortunately
gently
gladly

happily
honestly
horribly
kindly
loudly
madly
nearly
neatly
nervously
painfully
patiently
perfectly
poorly
promptly
quickly
quietly
rapidly
rarely
rudely
sadly
safely
seriously
silently
slowly
smoothly
softly
suddenly
violently

Other Common Adverbs

almost
always
away
even
far
fast
here
just
less
late
more
never
not
now
often
seldom
somewhat
soon
there
today
tomorrow
too
very
yesterday
yet

HOMOGRAPHS

Two words that have the same spelling but different meanings and different origins are called **homographs**. The sentences in the list below each show a different meaning for the word in bold. Have students define the word as it is used in each sentence. Students can also create their own sentences.

- act** Dan wants to act in the movies.
The last act of the play was exciting.
- arms** My arms hurt.
The army arrived bearing arms.
- back** My back aches.
Go back home.
- bail** We need to bail the water out of the yard.
The man was released from jail after paying the bail.
- ball** The tennis ball is new.
Everyone danced at the ball.
- band** The band will play music.
The band fell off her wrist.
- bank** Put some money in the bank.
The bank of the river was soft.
- bark** Listen to that dog bark.
The bark on the tree is dry.
- base** Tom ran to third base.
The base salary is low.
- bed** I sleep on a nice bed.
The garden has a bed of flowers.
- bat** Bob will swing the bat.
The bat is flying in the sky.
Don't bat your eyes at me.
- batter** The pancake batter is fresh.
The batter struck out.



COMMON IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

The definition of each idiomatic expression is listed in parentheses beside the expression. A sentence containing the idiom is also included. Ask students to identify the meaning of the idioms. Then ask them to use specific idioms in sentences or short stories.

1. a chip off the old block (a person who behaves like his father)
Chuck is a chip off the old block.
2. all thumbs (clumsy)
Lisa is all thumbs when she plays the piano.
3. apple of my eye (to be adored very much)
The princess was the apple of his eye.
4. at the drop of a hat (instantly)
Tom is ready to eat at the drop of a hat.
5. at the end of one's rope (extremely upset)
After a difficult day at work, Carla was at the end of her rope.
6. at the top of her lungs (yelling loudly)
Sarah screamed at the top of her lungs.
7. back to the drawing board (to start over)
We needed to go back to the drawing board after the meeting.
8. bag of tricks (tools to complete a task)
Mary has a bag of tricks for getting the job done.
9. barking up the wrong tree (blaming the wrong person)
If you blame Sam, you're barking up the wrong tree.
10. bear in mind (take into consideration)
You need to bear in mind that I will not be helping you.
11. beating a dead horse (arguing a point that has already been settled)
You are beating a dead horse by yelling at Karen.
12. beating around the bush (to avoid giving the appropriate information)
Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you mean.
13. be a thorn in someone's side (to be an annoyance)
Andy was a thorn in my side every day in the office.
14. beating one's head against the wall (to do something over and over without results)
Stop beating your head against the wall trying to teach Charlie to play the trumpet.