



She quietly picked up the gun. She turned to face him and spoke remarkably calmly.

'Luckily, you knew Matthews was the murderer,' she said. She held the murder weapon firmly in her hand, 'And you led me straight to him.'

'Apparently I did,' he answered slowly, as he looked at the newly dead body of Matthews, lying on the floor beside him.

'But does that mean I'm next?' he thought to himself.

Presentation

You can add *-ly* to a number of adjectives to form adverbs: *bad* → *badly*, *loud* → *loudly*, *sudden* → *suddenly*.

Sometimes you need to make changes to the spelling: *true* → *truly*, *full* → *fully*, *happy* → *happily*, *terrible* → *terribly*, *realistic* → *realistically*.

-ly adverbs with verbs

Adverbs of manner describe how something is done, or how something happens:

He answered slowly. She quietly picked up the gun.

Adverbs of manner can come in three positions in a sentence or clause:

- They usually come **after the verb** they describe. If the verb has an object, the adverb comes after the verb + object:

She spoke calmly. She held the gun firmly.

- They can also come in the middle of the sentence, **between the subject and the main verb**:

She calmly spoke to the man in the chair. She quietly picked up the gun.

When there is an auxiliary verb, the adverb comes after the auxiliary and before the main verb:

She had quietly picked up the gun.

- They can also come **at the beginning** of the sentence:
Calmly, she spoke to the man in the chair. Quietly, she picked up the gun.

You don't normally use adverbs of manner between the subject and the verb, or at the beginning of the sentence, when no other additional information is given after the verb (e.g. an object, a prepositional phrase).

Say *She spoke calmly*. (don't say *She calmly spoke*. or *Calmly she spoke*.)

-ly adverbs with adjectives and adverbs

You can use *-ly* adverbs to add information about, or comment on, an adjective or another adverb. The *-ly adverb* always comes before the adjective or adverb:

Her voice was remarkably calm. He was incredibly relieved. He moved surprisingly quickly.

-ly adverbs commenting on a clause or sentence

You can use an *-ly* adverb to comment on a whole sentence or clause. These adverbs usually come:

- **at the beginning** of the sentence or clause:

Luckily, he knew Matthews was the murderer.

- or **at the end** of the sentence or clause:

He knew Matthews was the murderer, luckily.

Use commas to separate the comment adverb from the rest of the sentence.

Change of position and meaning

The meaning of the sentence sometimes changes when the position of the adverb changes. This happens when the focus of the adverb changes.

Slowly, we realised that he had taken all our money. (Slowly refers to the whole sentence.)

We realised that he had slowly taken all our money. (Slowly refers to the way he took the money.)

1 Change the bold words to adverbs by adding *-ly*. Sometimes you will need to make some changes to the spelling.



He looked at her **critical** ¹ She looked **true** ² awful and he was sure she was going to sing **horrible** ³ But **lucky** ⁴, when she opened her mouth, he was amazed. She sang **beautiful** ⁵ and she **immediate** ⁶ won everyone's hearts. When she finished, the crowd stood on their feet and clapped **enthusiastic** ⁷

2 The adverbs in five of the sentences are in the wrong position. Move them to a better position. Sometimes there is more than one correct position.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 I was sitting comfortably on the sofa.
.....
✓ | 6 The street outside was silent completely.
..... |
| 2 I heard a loud suddenly noise from outside.
I suddenly heard a loud noise from outside.
..... | 7 There was nothing or nobody there, apparently.
..... |
| 3 I went quickly to the door.
..... | 8 So I closed quietly the door and went back to the TV.
..... |
| 4 I looked up and carefully down the street.
..... | |
| 5 Then I stepped out slowly and cautiously extremely.
..... | |

3 Change the position of the adverbs so that the sentence has a different meaning.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 a Honestly, I can't speak to him.
b I can't speak to him honestly.
..... | 4 a He laughed happily when he heard the joke.
b |
| 2 a I don't think he'll have the courage to tell her personally.
b | 5 a We quickly realised that he couldn't walk.
b |
| 3 a Normally, I can't work if there's music on.
b | 6 a I said something incredibly stupid.
b |

4 Match these explanations to either *a* or *b* in 1–6 in exercise 3.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 I find it difficult to tell him the truth. <i>b</i> | 4 I was worried that he might think it was offensive. |
| 2 He'll probably get someone else to tell her. | 5 So we all slowed down to his walking pace. |
| 3 I find I work more slowly with music on. | 6 I don't normally say anything stupid. |