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Building Sentences with Descriptors



The basic sentence is made up of two parts: a subject and a predicate.

To make a sentence more interesting and to add important information to a sentence, descriptors can be added.

Descriptors include adjectives, adverbs, adjective phrases, and adverb phrases.

Example: Here is a basic sentence with a subject and a predicate.

The girl ran home.

Here is the same sentence with an adjective and an adverb.

The **happy** girl ran home **quickly**.

Exercise A

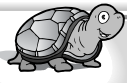
Make each of the following sentences more interesting by adding an adjective to describe the subject and an adverb to describe the verb. Choose from the adjective/adverb word pairs to fill in the blanks in each sentence below.

Use both words in each pair for each sentence below.



puffy, lazily hot, mercilessly French, quietly
brave, fearlessly young, gracefully best, kindly
vicious, fiercely reckless, dangerously

1. The _____ teacher _____ called out our names.
2. His _____ dog barked _____ at the people passing by.
3. The _____ clouds drifted _____ overhead.
4. The _____ sun beat down _____ on the sunbathers.
5. The _____ ballerina danced _____ on the stage.
6. The _____ stuntman jumped _____ from the top of the building.
7. The _____ firefighter _____ entered the burning building.
8. Her _____ friend _____ offered to help her clean her room.



A **Phrase** is a group of words that acts as a single word in a sentence. Unlike sentences and clauses, phrases do not contain a subject and a predicate.

An **Adjective Phrase** acts as an adjective and describes a noun.

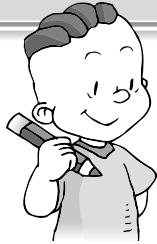
Example: The hat in the box was a gift for his mother.

"In the box" is an adjective phrase because it gives information about the hat.

An **Adverb Phrase** acts as an adverb and describes a verb.

Example: He placed his mother's hat in the box.

"In the box" is an adverb phrase because it tells where the hat was placed.



Adverb phrases often answer the questions where and when.

Exercise B

In the space following each sentence, write "ADV" (adverb) or "ADJ" (adjective) to indicate which type of phrase is used. Underline the preposition that introduces each phrase.

1. The children played *in the school yard* during recess. _____
2. They played a game *of baseball* called "workups". _____
3. Their game was interrupted by the ringing *of the bell*. _____
4. The team *with the most runs* when the bell rang was the winner. _____
5. John is the best baseball player *in our school*. _____
6. He once hit the ball *over the schoolyard fence*. _____
7. Mr. Wright, the grade four teacher, picks even teams *of twelve players*. _____
8. He said that one day we could play a team *from another school*. _____
9. He said that the game would take place *at the community baseball diamond*. _____
10. We are hoping to arrange to play this game *in the spring*. _____