

Lesson 1

Using Adjectives and Adverbs

Teaching

Modifiers are words that describe or give more specific information about the meanings of other words. Modifiers may function as adjectives or adverbs.

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. They answer the questions *which one (that, this), what kind (blue, cool), how many (three, several), and how much (some, none)*.

Words classified as other parts of speech can also function as adjectives.

NOUNS	<u>circus tent</u>
POSSESSIVE NOUNS AND PRONOUNS	<u>Shawn's drums, our town</u>
INDEFINITE PRONOUNS	<u>every performer</u>
DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS	<u>that elephant</u>
PARTICIPLES	<u>trained monkeys, cheering crowds</u>
NUMBERS	<u>three, 35</u>

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. They answer the questions *when, where, how, and to what extent*.

WHEN?	The circus train arrived <u>today</u> .
WHERE?	Look <u>up</u> to see the trapeze artists.
HOW?	The crowd gathered <u>expectantly</u> .
TO WHAT EXTENT?	The animals were <u>extremely</u> well trained.

Identifying Adjectives and Adverbs

Identify the boldfaced word as an adjective or an adverb. Write **ADJ** or **ADV** on the line.

1. "Come one, come all to the greatest show on Earth!" shouts the **enthusiastic** announcer at the circus. _____
2. The spectacle **now** known as the circus began thousands of years ago. _____
3. Roman games, which were similar to today's circuses, focused **mainly** on animal acts and daring horseback riding. _____
4. During the Middle Ages, jugglers and tightrope walkers **skillfully** performed on street corners. _____
5. **Those** performers also performed before the royalty of Europe in organized shows. _____
6. Modern circuses began in England in the 1700s when Philip Astley began a show of trick **horseback** riding accompanied by live music, all within a circular structure. _____
7. American showmen **soon** began to imitate Astley's Circus, adding more acts. _____
8. In the late 1700s, circuses began exhibiting **exotic** animals. _____
9. One of these **traveling** circuses was owned by P. T. Barnum, a famous showman. _____
10. At first, horse-drawn wagons **slowly** carried the circus from town to town. _____

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Application

A. Writing Subjects and Predicates

Complete each of the following sentences by writing an adjective or an adverb in the blank. Then write **ADJ** or **ADV** on the line to identify your word.

- Transporting an entire circus from city to city is a _____ task. _____
- Smaller circuses, which travel by truck, give _____ performances within a certain area. _____
- They may perform in a different city _____ every day. _____
- _____ performer and worker pitches in where needed. _____
- Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey uses railroad cars to travel _____ distances. _____
- There are _____ units, a Red and a Blue, which follow their own routes. _____
- Each unit puts on _____ performances with plenty of clowns, wild animals, and other acts. _____
- Behind the scenes, the performers live in a _____ organized environment. _____
- The circus _____ has a community kitchen, medical facilities, and a post office. _____
- The circus workers and performers live together _____ closely, and this closeness makes them feel more like a family than a business. _____

B. Writing with Adjectives and Adverbs

Often, music concerts of today are as spectacular as the circus used to be. Performers still try to dazzle and amaze audiences with special effects and lighting. On the lines below, describe a live concert by a popular singer or band. You could choose to describe the audience, the hall, or the performers themselves. Use at least six adjectives and six adverbs in your description.
