# 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

circus tent

Possessive nouns and pronouns

Shawn's drums, our town

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

every performer

**DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS** 

that elephant

**PARTICIPLES** 

trained monkeys, cheering crowds

NUMBERS

three, 35

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

WHEN?

The circus train arrived today.

WHERE?

Look up to see the trapeze artists. The crowd gathered expectantly.

How? TO WHAT EXTENT?

The animals were extremely 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.

#### Lesson 1

## Using Adjectives and Adverbs

More Practice

## A. Identifying Adjectives and the Words They Modify

Underline the adjective once and the word it modifies twice in each of the following sentences. Ignore articles and proper nouns.

- 1. Circus audiences loved the high-wire act of the Great Wallendas.
- 2. This daring family of tightrope walkers put on an amazing show for decades.
- 3. Their famous act was their seven-person pyramid.
- 4. In this act, four men walked on the wire with a steel rod connecting them.
- **5.** On the connecting rod stood two more men; another steel rod connected them, too.
- **6.** At the very top of the pyramid was a young woman on a chair that rested on the second rod.
- 7. Their act, which was always performed without a safety net, may have been the most dangerous stunt in the history of the circus.
- 8. Different members of the extended family took part in this incredible feat over the years.
- 9. Unfortunately, the act had more than its fair share of disastrous results.
- For example, in 1962, in the middle of the act, one member of the famous troupe lost his balance, and the whole pyramid collapsed.
- 11. Two members were killed and one was paralyzed for life in that tragic fall.

# B. Identifying Adverbs and the Words They Modify

Underline the word modified by each boldfaced adverb. Then in the blank after each sentence, identify the part of speech of the modified word. Write **V** for verb, **ADJ** for adjective, or **ADV** for adverb.

	Never look directly at the sun during an eclipse.
1.	An <b>extremely</b> strong wind overturned the park bench.
2.	"I never could do that!" exclaimed Helen.
3.	The firefighter moved <b>very</b> cautiously through the blackened building.
4.	We searched everywhere for the missing photos.
5.	Hank drove more slowly as we continued up the winding road.
6.	As we reached the stadium, we gasped at the <b>unusually</b> large crowd of fans waiting in line.
7.	The small, <b>barely</b> red strawberries were not ripe enough to pick.
8.	Please go to the library <b>now</b> for the information you need.
9.	After he completed the first problem, he worked the next one <b>much</b> faster.
10.	Marta jogs two miles <b>daily</b> in any weather.

#### Using Adjectives and Adverbs 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.

1. Transporting an entire circus from city to city is a 2. Smaller circuses, which travel by truck, give \_\_\_\_\_ performances within a certain area. 3. They may perform in a different city \_\_\_\_\_ performer and worker pitches in where needed. 5. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey uses railroad cars to travel distances. units, a Red and a Blue, which follow 6. There are their own routes. 7. Each unit puts on performances with plenty of clowns, wild animals, and other acts. 8. Behind the scenes, the performers live in a \_ organized environment. has a community kitchen, medical 9. The circus \_ facilities, and a post office. 10. 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.