**USING ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS**

**Adjectives** are words that modify nouns and pronouns. **Adjectives** answer the following questions:

- What kind?
- Which one(s)?
- How many?
- How much?

1) Generally, **adjectives** appear right before the nouns they modify.
   EXAMPLE: The **new** owner gave **free** samples to **every** customer.

2) However, **adjectives** used as subject complements come after the nouns they modify.
   EXAMPLE: The sky is **cloudy**.
   Cloudy follows the linking verb is and describes the subject sky.

3) Some words can be used as either **adjectives** or nouns. Remember that an adjective modifies a noun or pronoun and a noun **names** a person, place, thing, or idea.
   EXAMPLES: Our **paper** came late. (**Paper** is a noun.)
   We used **paper** plates. (**Paper** is an adjective, modifying the word **plates**.)

**Adverbs** are words that modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. **Adverbs** answer the following questions:

- When?
- Where?
- How?
- How much?
- How often?

4) Many **adverbs** end in **–ly**. Some words have two forms: the adjective form **without –ly** and the adverb form **with –ly**.
   EXAMPLES: eager (adjective)   eagerly (adverb)

5) **Adverbs** can be shifted from one position in the sentence to another.
   EXAMPLES: Suddenly the door opened.
   The door **suddenly** opened.
   The door opened **suddenly**.
6) Most **adjectives** and **adverbs** have three degrees of power. The second degree is called the comparative, and the third degree is called the superlative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Degree</th>
<th>Second Degree</th>
<th>Third Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td>higher</td>
<td>highest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligent</td>
<td>more intelligent</td>
<td>most intelligent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7) Never use both the **–er** and **more** or the **–est** and **most**.
   INCORRECT: The tomato is **more riper**.

8) Remember that **good** is an **adjective** and **well** is an **adverb**.
   EXAMPLES: The soup smelled **good**.
   She could not smell very **well** with her cold.
   a. Notice that **good** is used as the subject complement following the linking verb **smell** while **well** is used when **smell** is an action verb.

9) A few **adverbs** have two forms—one with the **–ly** and one without. This shorter form is frequently used in brief commands and on traffic signs.
   EXAMPLES: Drive slow!
   Please come quick!
   Talk loud.
   Play fair.
   Buy furniture cheap. (advertisement)

10) Be sure to use **really** and **surely** as adverbs, not the words **real** and **sure**.
    INCORRECT: He did a **real** fine job.
    CORRECT: He did a **really** fine job.

11) When words already end in **–ly**, you must make a prepositional phrase rather than add an **–ly** to form a modifier.
   EXAMPLES: friendly, neighborly, fatherly, orderly
   INCORRECT: The class walked **orderl**y down the hall.
   CORRECT: The class walked down the hall in an **orderly** manner.

12) In formal writing, use **rather** or **somewhat** instead of **kind of** or **sort of**.
    INCORRECT: She was **sort of** angry.
    CORRECT: She was **somewhat** angry.