



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Adjectives and Adverbs 5 by K S Sandhu

The Careful Gardener

Raano loved gardening more than anything else. She enthusiastically spent most weekends in her small backyard, planting flowers and vegetables. She worked meticulously, checking every leaf and root before placing them in the soil. "If you plant carefully," she always said, "they grow remarkably well."

Her brother Tom, however, did everything differently. He frequently rushed into the garden after school, digging holes quickly and throwing seeds in carelessly. "Why wait?" he laughed. "Plants grow anyway!"

One spring day, Raano decided to teach Tom a lesson. She deliberately chose two identical flower beds side by side. "Let's see which one does better," she suggested calmly. Tom agreed eagerly.

Raano planted her seeds cautiously, watering them gently every evening and weeding consistently twice a week. She read books thoroughly to learn the best methods and measured the soil accurately. Tom, on the other hand, watered his bed occasionally – sometimes heavily after rain, sometimes forgetting for days. He pulled weeds roughly and left tools everywhere.

Approximately three months later, something surprising happened. Raano's bed bloomed beautifully – bright red roses climbed gracefully up the trellis, and tomatoes grew plumply and red. Butterflies visited regularly, and the colours looked vibrantly alive.

Tom's bed? The plants were weakly growing, some barely reaching ten centimetres. Weeds covered the ground thickly, and only a few sad flowers appeared sporadically.

"See?" Raano said proudly. "When you work patiently and carefully, nature rewards you generously."

Tom scratched his head thoughtfully. "Apparently, I was wrong. I thought speed mattered more."

Fortunately, it wasn't too late. Tom started helping Raano willingly. He learned to water moderately, to weed gently, and to observe plants attentively. Gradually, his half of the garden improved noticeably. The two beds looked increasingly similar – both lushly green and full of life.

Now, they garden together almost every weekend. Raano still plans meticulously, but Tom adds creative ideas imaginatively. They laugh cheerfully when things go wrong and celebrate joyfully when flowers open.

Gardening taught them both an important lesson: success comes not from rushing hurriedly, but from acting sensibly and persistently. As Raano often says smilingly, “Take your time – the results are worth it tremendously.”

Questions:

Question 1: How does Raano usually work in her garden, and what adverb describes her planting style?

Question 2: How often does Tom rush into the garden after school, according to the story?

Question 3: What happened to Raano’s flower bed after approximately three months?

Question 4: Why did Tom’s plants grow weakly, and how did he water his bed?

Question 5: What lesson did gardening teach Raano and Tom, and how do they garden now?

Answers:

Answer 1: Raano works meticulously (very carefully) in her garden. The adverb that describes her planting style is “cautiously” — (or “carefully” / “gently” / “meticulously”).

Answer 2: Tom frequently rushes into the garden after school.

Answer 3: After approximately three months, Raano’s bed bloomed beautifully – bright red roses climbed gracefully, tomatoes grew plumply and red, and butterflies visited regularly.

Answer 4: Tom’s plants grew weakly because he watered his bed occasionally (sometimes heavily, sometimes forgetting for days), pulled weeds roughly, and left tools everywhere.

Answer 5: Gardening taught them that success comes from acting sensibly and persistently (not from rushing hurriedly). Now they garden together almost every weekend, cheerfully laughing when things go wrong and joyfully celebrating when flowers open.

23 Types of adverb



When they are hunting, lions **usually** move **very slowly** and **silently** through the grass.

1 Types of adverb

Adverbs describe how, how often, when or where an action happens. They have many forms and they sometimes have more than one word.

TYPE OF ADVERB	EXAMPLES	
manner (how)	<i>slowly quickly carefully well</i>	<i>Lions move slowly and silently.</i>
frequency (how often)	<i>often sometimes never usually</i>	<i>Lions usually move very slowly.</i>
degree (how much)	<i>very really a lot a little</i>	<i>Lions move very slowly.</i>
time (when)	<i>today soon last week at the weekends</i>	<i>We don't work at the weekends.</i>
place (where)	<i>here upstairs in an office</i>	<i>I work in an office.</i>
direction (which way)	<i>left right straight on across (the road) through (the grass)</i>	<i>Lions move through the grass.</i>

already, yet ▶ Unit 36.5/6 *probably* ▶ Unit 41.5 *after that* ▶ Unit 82.2

Adverbs of manner have a **regular** form (except *well*); we add *-ly* to the adjective:
slow → *slowly*, *silent* → *silently*, *perfect* → *perfectly*

Sometimes the spelling changes, e.g. *happy* → *happily*.

2 Irregular adverbs

The adverbs *fast*, *hard*, *high*, *long*, *low*, *near*, *late* and *early* have the same form as adjectives.
 Compare: *We got the **early** train.* (*early* = adjective) *They arrived **early**.* (*early* = adverb)

The adverb for *good* is *well*:

*Sophia is a **good** writer.* ✗ *Sophia writes **good**.* ✓ *Sophia writes **well**.*

The words *friendly*, *lovely*, *silly* and *lonely* end in *-ly* but they are adjectives, not adverbs.

We can't make them into adverbs so we say 'in a way':

✗ *She talked to me **friendly**.* ✗ *She talked to me **friendly**.*

✓ *She talked to me **in a friendly way**.*

3 Adverbs of degree

We use (*very*) *much* and *a lot* to make verbs stronger. We use *a little* and *a bit* (spoken English) to make verbs weaker. We put these adverbs **AFTER** the verb and object:

*Steve **loves** his family **very much**.* *Our customers **complain** about the service **a lot**.*

*He can **play** the guitar **a little**.* *Her behaviour **annoys** me **a bit**.*

We can also use *really* to make verbs stronger. We put it **BEFORE** the verb and **AFTER** the subject: *I **really** hate him!* *We **really** don't understand what you're saying.*

We use *really*, *very* and *extremely* to make adjectives, adverbs of manner and *often* stronger.

We can use *fairly*, *rather* or *quite* to make them weaker:

*I can understand you if you speak **very slowly**.* *My new car goes **really fast**.*

*We go to the cinema **quite often**.* *I speak Arabic **fairly well**.*

Practice

1 Write the missing adverbs.

adjective	<i>slow</i>	<i>happy</i>	<i>usual</i>	<i>early</i>	<i>fast</i>	<i>hard</i>	<i>good</i>
adverb	<i>slowly</i>						

2 Complete the sentences, using the adverbs from Exercise 1.

- 0 Lift the weights *slowly*..... or you'll hurt yourself.
- 1 We found a good seat because we arrived
- 2 Jake's a fantastic artist. He can paint really
- 3 My parents have been married for more than thirty years.
- 4 If you want to pass the exam you need to work
- 5 I have a hot drink before I go to bed.
- 6 You shouldn't drive so - it's dangerous!

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics*. 2.45 Listen and check.

KEITH I thought you might be able to give me some advice on university courses. It's (0) *(really difficult)* / *difficult really* to choose one.

MIKE Which school subjects do you prefer?

KEITH Well, I'm (1) *a lot / very* good at science and I think biology is (2) *interesting quite / quite interesting*.

MIKE And what do you do in your free time?

KEITH I play (3) *computer games a lot / a lot computer games*. And I'm (4) *much / extremely* fond of animals. My parents own a farm and we've got two horses and a couple of cats. I can (5) *happy / happily* spend most of my free time with them!

MIKE So you like animals? Do you find it easy to control them?

KEITH Oh yes, it's (6) *easy fairly / fairly easy* for me. I know they sometimes behave badly or (7) *in a silly way / silly* but I seem to have a good relationship with them.

MIKE Do you have any special skills?

KEITH Yes, I play the piano (8) *rather / a little* well; and my mother's German so I can speak German (9) *perfectly / perfect*.

MIKE Have you thought about studying to become a vet?

KEITH No, but that's a (10) *really / lot* good suggestion. Do you think I'd get a place?



4 Complete the sentences with the phrases from the box. 2.46 Listen and check.

very much really slowly ~~rather surprisingly~~ a little quite often
very carefully extremely fast rather hard quite well

- 0 She behaved *rather surprisingly*...; nobody expected her to do that.
- 1 I can sing, but my sister is better than me.
- 2 John was stopped by the police because he was driving
- 3 Palm trees grow; only one or two centimetres a year.
- 4 This is a dangerous machine. So make sure you read the instructions
- 5 We come here - about four or five times a year.
- 6 Clarissa loves her pet cat
- 7 Zack hit his head and got a really bad headache.
- 8 I hate going to the gym but I try to exercise every day to keep fit.

Answers

UNIT 23

1

<i>happily</i>	<i>usually</i>	<i>early</i>	<i>fast</i>	<i>hard</i>	<i>well</i>
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2 1 early 2 well 3 happily 4 hard 5 usually
6 fast

3 1 very 2 quite interesting 3 computer games
a lot 4 extremely 5 happily 6 fairly easy
7 in a silly way 8 rather 9 perfectly 10 really

4 1 quite well 2 extremely fast 3 really slowly
4 very carefully 5 quite often 6 very much
7 rather hard 8 a little