



# The University Writing Center

Connecting Writers with Readers

## Adjectives & Adverbs

### THE PRINCIPLE

**ADJECTIVES** can only modify **NOUNS**.

**ADVERBS** modify **ADJECTIVES, VERBS,** and **ADVERBS**.

### Adjective Explanation:

Adjectives modify nouns by answering a series of questions about the subject or direct object, such as:

- What kind?
- Which?
- Whose?
- How Many?
- Where?
- When?

Adjectives are generally placed **BEFORE** the verb in a sentence; however, occasionally they occur following a verb.

**BEFORE** verb example: A "**yellow**" balloon floated across the park.

"Yellow" is the adjective which modifies and refers to the **balloon**. It occurs prior to the verb "floated."

**AFTER** verb example: My dog is "**fluffy**."

"Fluffy" is the adjective which modifies the dog. However, in this case, the adjective "**fluffy**," follows the verb "is."

### Adverb Explanation:

Adverbs can modify adjectives, verbs, and other adverbs, and commonly end in -ly. However, this is not a requirement.

Adverb example words:

Quietly  
Quickly  
Silently  
Spitefully  
Very  
Much

Example sentences: I have a very "fluffy" dog. The adverb 'very', modifies "fluffy," an **ADJECTIVE**

My dog "runs" quickly. The adverb 'quickly' modifies "runs," a **VERB**.

My dog runs extremely "quickly." The adverb 'extremely' modifies the **ADVERB**.