

# ADVERBS

**Adverbs** are used to describe verbs. They answer **Where**, **When**, and **How** questions. Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to the end of adjectives. Other common endings are *-ways* as in *sideways* and *-wise* as in *lengthwise*. Some adverbs, however, do not have special suffixes. Commonly used adverbs are listed below. Discuss their meanings and have students use them in sentences and original stories.

## Common Adverbs

### Ending in *-ly*

accurately  
anxiously  
awfully  
awkwardly  
badly  
boldly  
bravely  
briefly  
brightly  
calmly  
carefully  
carelessly  
cautiously  
cheerfully  
clearly  
correctly  
deliberately  
doubtfully  
eagerly  
easily  
enormously  
evenly  
exactly  
foolishly  
fortunately  
gently  
gladly

happily  
honestly  
horribly  
kindly  
loudly  
madly  
nearly  
neatly  
nervously  
painfully  
patiently  
perfectly  
poorly  
promptly  
quickly  
quietly  
rapidly  
rarely  
rudely  
sadly  
safely  
seriously  
silently  
slowly  
smoothly  
softly  
suddenly  
violently

## Other Common Adverbs

almost  
always  
away  
even  
far  
fast  
here  
just  
less  
late  
more  
never  
not  
now  
often  
seldom  
somewhat  
soon  
there  
today  
tomorrow  
too  
very  
yesterday  
yet

# HOMOGRAPHS

Two words that have the same spelling but different meanings and different origins are called **homographs**. The sentences in the list below each show a different meaning for the word in bold. Have students define the word as it is used in each sentence. Students can also create their own sentences.

- act** Dan wants to act in the movies.  
The last act of the play was exciting.
- arms** My arms hurt.  
The army arrived bearing arms.
- back** My back aches.  
Go back home.
- bail** We need to bail the water out of the yard.  
The man was released from jail after paying the bail.
- ball** The tennis ball is new.  
Everyone danced at the ball.
- band** The band will play music.  
The band fell off her wrist.
- bank** Put some money in the bank.  
The bank of the river was soft.
- bark** Listen to that dog bark.  
The bark on the tree is dry.
- base** Tom ran to third base.  
The base salary is low.
- bed** I sleep on a nice bed.  
The garden has a bed of flowers.
- bat** Bob will swing the bat.  
The bat is flying in the sky.  
Don't bat your eyes at me.
- batter** The pancake batter is fresh.  
The batter struck out.



# COMMON IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

The definition of each idiomatic expression is listed in parentheses beside the expression. A sentence containing the idiom is also included. Ask students to identify the meaning of the idioms. Then ask them to use specific idioms in sentences or short stories.

1. a chip off the old block (a person who behaves like his father)  
Chuck is a chip off the old block.
2. all thumbs (clumsy)  
Lisa is all thumbs when she plays the piano.
3. apple of my eye (to be adored very much)  
The princess was the apple of his eye.
4. at the drop of a hat (instantly)  
Tom is ready to eat at the drop of a hat.
5. at the end of one's rope (extremely upset)  
After a difficult day at work, Carla was at the end of her rope.
6. at the top of her lungs (yelling loudly)  
Sarah screamed at the top of her lungs.
7. back to the drawing board (to start over)  
We needed to go back to the drawing board after the meeting.
8. bag of tricks (tools to complete a task)  
Mary has a bag of tricks for getting the job done.
9. barking up the wrong tree (blaming the wrong person)  
If you blame Sam, you're barking up the wrong tree.
10. bear in mind (take into consideration)  
You need to bear in mind that I will not be helping you.
11. beating a dead horse (arguing a point that has already been settled)  
You are beating a dead horse by yelling at Karen.
12. beating around the bush (to avoid giving the appropriate information)  
Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you mean.
13. be a thorn in someone's side (to be an annoyance)  
Andy was a thorn in my side every day in the office.
14. beating one's head against the wall (to do something over and over without results)  
Stop beating your head against the wall trying to teach Charlie to play the trumpet.