## **Using Adverbs Correctly**

Adverbs often tell when the action in a sentence is taking place. *Ago* indicates past time. *Later* indicates future time. In a statement, the tense of the verb and the adverb of time usually must agree.

## EXAMPLES

Maria sang long ago.

Jack will sing later.

Tom will sing next.

(The adverb *next* suggests that the action will happen in the future. The verb should be in future tense.)

Tomorrow we will go to work.

(The adverb *tomorrow* is future time. The verb should be in future tense.)

**Activity A** In the sentences below, the adverbs of time are in bold. Write the correct tense of the verb in parentheses to complete each sentence.

- 1) We (go) there a year ago.
- 2) Yesterday we (be) late to class.
- 3) Sally (arrive) soon.
- 4) Tiny (eat) his dinner now.

Always use an adverb in a sentence when answering a question about a verb.

EXAMPLES

Correct: She sighed softly. (How did she

sigh? softly)

Incorrect: She sighed soft. (Soft is an adjective.)

Activity B Choose the correct word in parentheses. Write it on your own paper.

- 1) Fernando laughed (happy, happily).
- 2) The winds howled (loud, loudly).
- 3) She left home (quick, quickly)!
- 4) Sit there (quiet, quietly)!

Use good and well correctly. Good is always an adjective and describes a noun. Never use *good* to answer questions about a verb.

EXAMPLE

Correct:

We had a good day. (What kind of

day? a good day)

Incorrect: They worked good together. (The adjective good should not be used to answer the question How did

they work?)

Well is usually an adverb. Well means to do something correctly.

EXAMPLE

Correct:

She speaks well. (How does she

speak? well)

Incorrect: She speaks good. (The adjective good

should not be used to answer the question How does she speak?)

Good and well can both be used after state-of-being verbs. In both sentences below, *good* and *well* are adjectives.

EXAMPLE

Correct:

I feel good today. (describes emotions)

Correct:

I feel well today. (describes health)

**Activity C** Write either good or well on your paper to complete each sentence correctly.

- 1) Carol is \_\_\_\_\_ at arithmetic.
- **2)** Dan dances very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) She did her \_\_\_\_\_ deed for the day.
- **4)** Mike always does his work \_
- 5) Paco isn't feeling \_\_\_\_\_ today.
- **6)** Billy does everything \_\_\_\_\_.
- **7)** Ellie paints very \_\_\_\_\_.
- **8)** Michael had a \_\_\_\_\_ game yesterday.
- **9)** Lulu sings very \_\_\_\_\_.
- **10)** Do you feel \_\_\_\_\_ enough to go to the movies.

*Part A* Rewrite each of these sentences correctly on your paper.

- 1) Yesterday we are late to class.
- 2) Please finish that work quick.
- 3) Louis Armstrong played the trumpet very good.
- 4) Owen and I work good as partners.
- 5) "Julio spoke now," the teacher reminded the class.
- 6) Annie always talks very soft.
- 7) The phone works poor.
- 8) The children are playing so quiet.
- 9) Jonas dances good for a five-year-old.
- 10) The bus arrived soon.

Part B The word in bold in each of these sentences is an adverb. Write the form of the verb that should appear in each sentence to make it correct. Beside each verb, write its tense.

**Example** I (sit) at that desk **yesterday**.

## sat—past tense

- 1) **Tomorrow** we (go) to work.
- 2) We (eat) at that restaurant a long time ago.
- 3) Our friends (arrive) soon.
- 4) The men (clean) our rug yesterday.
- 5) I (wash) the car earlier today.

Part A Write all the adverbs in these sentences on your paper. A sentence may have more than one adverb.

- 1) A heavy snowfall arrived early in December.
- 2) Most of the people at Wilson High School were very happy.
- 3) The teachers and students waited somewhat patiently.
- 4) They were expecting an announcement that school would be dismissed early.
- 5) At home Joe was not so pleased.
- 6) He had to go to work anyway.
- 7) He knew the roads would be extremely slippery.
- 8) The grocery store never closed for snow.
- 9) Business at the store would probably be very slow.
- 10) Yesterday had been unusually busy for a Tuesday.
- 11) Joe drove more slowly that day.
- 12) Finally, he arrived at work.
- 13) He walked across the parking lot carefully.
- 14) The store was almost empty.
- 15) The other cashiers were talking excitedly about the snow.
- 16) The day passed quickly.
- 17) Soon it was time for Joe to leave.
- 13) "I still have time to go sledding," he thought to himself.
- 19) He found Tina already outside.
- 20) "Hey! I'm here!" he called to her.

*Part B* Write the adverbs in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) You should follow the directions carefully.
- 2) Clues to the puzzle are hidden everywhere.
- 3) The weather was very cold yesterday.
- 4) You are making too much noise.
- 5) I was almost asleep.
- 6) Julie threw her dog's old collar away today.
- 7) Is it true that it hardly rains in southern California?
- 8) The basement is quite damp this time of year.
- 9) He made a rather strange request.
- 10) She almost always arrives late.

**Part** C Write the form of the adverb that should appear in each sentence to make it correct.

- 1) Of all the girls, Donna runs (fast).
- 2) Charlie works (slowly) than Jim.
- 3) Beth sings well, but Dan sings (well).
- 4) When I am tired, I work (quickly) than when I am rested.
- 5) The cardinal sings (sweetly) than the blue jay.

Test Taking Tip

Review your corrected tests. You can learn from previous mistakes.