

What is an Adverb?
A Parts of Speech play
By Carole L Cooney

Setting: Doug's Beach

Characters:

Narrator

Word 1	Verb 1	Adverb 4
Word 2	Adverb 1	Adverb 5
Word 3	Adverb 2	Adverb 6
Word 4	Adverb 3	Adverb 7

Narrator: The mighty winds were gusting as the big black box of Words swirled to an abrupt stop on Doug's Beach.

Word 1: WOW! That was a terrifying ride!

Word 2: Whew! I thought we'd never make it down safely.

Narrator: In the distance, there were echoes of talking. As the talking grew louder, Word 2 noticed a group of Words jumping all over the sand.

Word 2: WHO are you?

Adverb 1: We're adverbs. We're *special* words.

Word 1: (attitude) What is *so special* about you?

Adverb 2: We're special because we modify *lots* of words. We modify verbs, adjectives and other adverbs.

Word 3: Well, I know that *modify* means you describe something. What's it like to modify a verb?

Narrator: Out of nowhere a verb jumped forward.

Verb 1: I'll show you. My name is "sang." Come on words. Make a sentence!

Narrator: Nouns, and adjectives ran together to make a sentence with the verb "sang."

Verb 1: Here's the sentence: Last night, during the American Idol show, one contestant sang.

Adverb 1: HOW BORING! How about adding an adverb to make the sentence more interesting?

Narrator: Adverb 2 stepped forward to join the sentence.

Adverb 2: My name is "off-key." I'm going to modify the verb, "sang!"

Verb 1: Here's the sentence: Last night, during the American Idol show, one contestant sang off-key. Wow! That adverb made a big difference.

Word 3: Come on adverbs! Can't you do better than that? How about adding an adverb to modify an adjective and another adverb?

Adverb 1: All right! You asked for it!

Narrator: Many adverbs pushed and shoved each other until two adverbs stepped forward.

Adverb 3: My name is "only." I'm going to modify an adjective.

Adverb 4: And my name is "extremely." I'm modifying an adverb.

Verb 1: Listen to the sentence now! Last night, during the American Idol show, only one contestant sang extremely off-key.

Adverb 2: Cool! You guys did a great job. Want to try another sentence?

Adverb 1: How about another sentence where adverbs modify a verb, an adjective and another adverb.

Word 3: Okay! Hey, nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs get another sentence together and make it fast!

Narrator: Nouns and verbs were jumping all over each other. Adjectives played tug-of-war with the adverbs. Finally, they got it together and made a sentence.

Word 3: (attitude) Here it is and I'M going to read it. The most advanced windsurfers cautiously sail at the very windy Doug's beach.

Word 4: How about all the adverbs in that sentence step forward and tell what word they modify?

Adverb 5: I'm "most" and I modify the adjective "advanced"

Adverb 6: I'm "cautiously" and I modify the verb "sail."

Adverb 7: I'm "very" and I modify the adjective "windy."

Word 4: (attitude) It's such a great sentence, now *I'm* going to read it. The most advanced windsurfers cautiously sail at the very windy Doug's Beach.

Narrator: All the nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs congratulated themselves on a job well done. Suddenly, a great wind scooped the words into the black box. They lifted off of the sandy beach and sailed far, far away.