

# WRITING WITH ADVERBS

A **Tom Swifty** is a form of wordplay where an adverb is used as a pun to describe how something is being said—for example:

“Who turned off the lights?” Tom asked darkly.

“This pencil needs to be sharpened,” Tom said bluntly.

“The doctor removed my left ventricle,” cried Tom half-heartedly.

Choose adverbs from the box below to complete these Tom Swiftys:

“It’s time to go to the cemetery,” Tom said \_\_\_\_\_.

“The house is on fire!” yelled Tom \_\_\_\_\_.

“I like to go camping,” Tom said \_\_\_\_\_.

**When?** She mailed it *yesterday*,  
(or *today*, *immediately*, *soon*, etc.)

**How often?** She *always* writes  
letters. (or *often*, *never*, *rarely*, etc.)

**To what extent?** She writes *very*  
neatly. (or *too*, *so*, *really*, etc.)

In this creative dramatics game, each class member will walk across the room in a way that expresses a “how” adverb (sadly, loudly, clumsily, etc.). Try to guess the adverb your friends are acting out. Write the adverbs below. Check the box in front of the adverbs you guessed correctly.

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

the show is over, my little brother gets

\_\_\_\_\_ sad, and my mother  
\_\_\_\_\_ comforts him. I

hope we can go to the circus again  
\_\_\_\_\_. What a(n) \_\_\_\_\_

fun day!

soon	happily	gently
really	incredibly	wildly
very	magically	especially

## 1. What's an Adverb?

## 2. Practice

An **adverb** is a word that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It tells how, where, when, how often, and to what extent.

**How?** She wrote *neatly*.  
(or *happily*, *quietly*, *quickly*, etc.)

**Where?** The envelope was *nearby*.  
(or *there*, *here*, *somewhere*, etc.)

Choose adverbs from the box below—or come up with your own—to make the following passage more descriptive and interesting.

We \_\_\_\_\_ like to go to the circus. We \_\_\_\_\_ like the clowns. They \_\_\_\_\_ appear from a little car and laugh \_\_\_\_\_ when they get hit with pies. The crowd \_\_\_\_\_ applauds. When

roundly	intently	gravely
alarmingly	readily	thoughtlessly

Write your own Tom Swifty below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

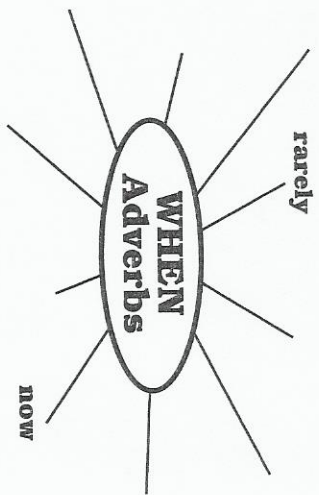
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

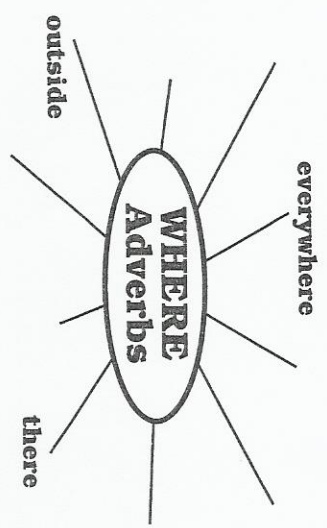
Brainstorm adverbs that tell *when* or *how* often. Use the sentences below to help you.

John \_\_\_\_\_ wants to go to bed.  
John wants to go to bed \_\_\_\_\_



Brainstorm adverbs that tell *where*. Use the sentence below to help you.

John runs \_\_\_\_\_.



5. Tom Swiftys

4. Adverbs Tell How

3. Adverbs Tell When & Where