ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

• Adjectives describe nouns or pronouns.

The car is fast. OR
That is a fast car.

• Adverbs modify everything except nouns and pronouns (mainly verbs).

• Adverbs answer “how,” “when,” or “where.”

He studies regularly. (Answers the question “how.”)
She arrived at work early. (Answers the question “when.”)
His mother still lives there. (Answers the question “where.”)

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

• In general, if a word answers the question “how,” it is an adverb. If it can have an “-ly” ending, use it.

Bobby behaves recklessly. How does he behave?
Bobby takes recklessly chances.
Is “reckless” answering “how”? No, it is not used as an adverb here.

They walk too fast for her to keep up.
“Fast” does answer the question “how,” but you never add an “-ly” to “fast.”

The American Idol contestant sang badly. Badly describes how the contestant sang.
ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

• When four of the senses (taste, smell, look, feel), are the verbs, a special “-ly” rule applies. Is the sense verb being used actively? If so, use “-ly.”

The week-old leftovers smell horribly. Horrible/ Horribly.
Do the leftovers have a nose? No.

The teenager looked sadly. Sad/ Sadly.
Was the teenager using her eyes to look at something? No.

The teenager looked sadly at her ruined clothes.
The teenager was looking at the clothes, so the “-ly” is added.

She feels badly about her friend’s broken leg.
She is not feeling with her hands, so the “-ly” is not used.

GOOD VS. WELL

• “Good” is an adjective.
• “Well” is an adverb.

Did you write a good story?
Did you write the story well?

The first sentence describes the story.
The second sentence describes how the story was written.

• Use “well” when you’re referring to health.

Michael’s sister did not look well.
Amanda doesn’t feel well today.

• You should, however, use “good” with “feel” when not talking about health.

Do you feel good about your decision to quit your job?
ADJECTIVE & ADVERB COMPARISONS

• Common error is to use wrong form when comparing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>soft</td>
<td>softer</td>
<td>softest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expensive</td>
<td>more expensive</td>
<td>most expensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Do not drop “-ly” from an adverb when comparing.

He ran more quickly than his teammates.
NOT He ran quicker than ... But it would be “faster than” because there is no such word as “fastly.”

Drive more slowly so you don’t get a speeding ticket.
NOT Drive slower.