Unit 96 | Adjectives and adverbs (1) (quick/quickly)

a Study these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time went quickly.
- The driver of the car was seriously injured in the accident.

Quickly and seriously are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are made from an adjective + -ly:

adjective:	quick	serious	careful	quiet	heavy	bad
adverb:	quickly	seriously	carefully	quietly	heavily	badly

For spelling rules see Appendix 3. For hard/fast/well see Unit 97.

Not all words ending in -ly are adverbs. Some adjectives end in -ly too. For example:

friendly   lively   elderly   lonely   silly   lovely

b *Adjective or adverb?*

An adjective tells us more about a *noun*. We use adjectives before nouns and after a few verbs (especially be):

- Tom is a careful driver.
- Be quiet, please!
- We didn't go out because of the heavy rain.
- I was disappointed that my exam results were so bad.

For adjectives after look/smell/feel etc. see Unit 95c.

An adverb tells us more about a *verb*. An adverb tells us in what way someone does something or in what way something happens:

- Tom drove carefully along the narrow road. (*not* 'drove careful')
- Speak quietly, please! (*not* 'speak quiet')
- We didn't go out because it was raining heavily. (*not* 'raining heavy')
- I was disappointed that I did so badly in the exam. (*not* 'did so bad')

Compare: She speaks perfect English.   (*adjective* + *noun*)

She speaks English perfectly.   (*verb* + *object* + *adverb*)

c We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

reasonably cheap   (*adverb* + *adjective*)
terribly sorry   (*adverb* + *adjective*)
incredibly quickly   (*adverb* + *adverb*)

- It's a reasonably cheap restaurant and the food is extremely good.
- Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to push you.
- Maria learns languages incredibly quickly.
- I was bitterly disappointed that I didn't get the job.
- The examination was surprisingly easy.

You can use an adverb before a *past participle* (injured/organised etc.):

- The meeting was very badly organised.
- The driver of the car was seriously injured in the accident.
- The building was totally destroyed in the fire.

does something or in what way something happens: