

Bracken Business Communications Clinic

ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS

Adjectives

- are descriptive words that modify nouns.
- usually (but not always) come before the noun.
- often answer the questions:
 - Which? How many? What kind?

In the following examples, *adjectives* are italicized:

good dog *seven* trees *big* truck *best* college *daring* rescue

Rarely, adjectives come after the noun; e.g., when following forms of “to be” and sense verbs.

The pizza looks *delicious*. She feels *hungry*. The sauce tastes *spicy*.

Demonstrative Adjectives

- identify specific nouns.
- indicate objects in close proximity (this, these), or
- indicate objects at a distance (that, those).

this book *these* shoes *that* turkey *those* cars

Compound Adjectives

- consist of two or more words working together to modify a noun.
- must be hyphenated.

Face-to-face communication *data-sharing* system *free-range* chickens

Adverbs

- are descriptive words that modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.
- Often answer the questions:
 - When? Where? How? Why?

In the following examples, **adverbs** are bold and *adjectives* are italicized.

spoke **well** runs **fast** **extremely** *kind* **really** *bad* **thoroughly** explained

Note: “Good” and “bad” are adjectives, whereas “well” and “badly” are adverbs.

I am *good*. I am doing **well**. The grizzly smells *bad*. He sings **badly**.

(*If the grizzly smells badly, then the grizzly does not have a good sense of smell.)

