

Formation of Adverbs

Adverbs are words that describe, or modify, verbs, adjectives or other **adverbs**.

He ran quickly.	("quickly" describes how he "ran")
She spoke more slowly than he.	("slowly" describes how she "spoke")("more" modifies "slowly")

Most Spanish **adverbs** are formed by adding **-mente** to the **feminine** singular form of the adjective. This ending corresponds to **-ly** in English.

Adjective	Fem. Form	Adverb
clar o	clar a	clar a mente
constante e	constante e	constante e mente
difícil l	difícil l	difícil l mente

Note: When an adjective has a written accent, the **adverb** retains it.

Another way to form an **adverb** is to use the preposition **con** + the singular form of the noun.

cuidadoso (carefully)	cuidadosamente or con cuidado
perfecto (perfectly)	perfectamente or con perfección
cariñoso (affectionately)	cariñosamente or con cariño

Some **adverbs** do not follow any pattern of origination, and must simply be memorized. Here is a list of some common ones:

bastante	quite
demasiado	too
mal	badly
mucho	a lot
muy	very
nunca	never
peor	worse
poco	little

siempre	always
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When two **adverbs** modify the same verb, only the second one uses the **-mente** ending. Note that the first **adverb** is the same as the **feminine** singular form of the adjective.

Juan trabaja lenta y cuidadosamente.	Juan works slowly and carefully.
El chico le habló clara y cortésmente.	The boy spoke to him clearly and courteously.
El autor escribió rápida y fácilmente.	The author wrote quickly and easily.

PRACTICE LINKS:

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