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writers.On one hand, it seems every part of speech nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs has an important role in language, and that exiling just one of them is irresponsible. But on the gateway to it, and the slope is slippery. Adverbs tend to lend themselves to boring verbs. This is the argument most often made against adverbs. If you need an adverb to help your verb, it means your verb isnt strong enough. In many cases, adverbs act as a crutch. Take these examples: She wholeheartedly believed in hope. She clung to hope. He tearfully lookedinto the sun. He squinted into the sun. In both cases, the stronger verb stands up on its own. The pairing of weak verbs often results in telling rather than showing. Adverbs cause overwriting. Writers use adverbs to over-clarify. Take these examples from Kings book On Writing: Put it down! she shouted menacingly. Give it back, he pleaded abjectly, its mine. Don't be such a fool, Jekyll, Utterson said contemptuously. Why do we need to clarify that the shouting was menacing, or that his pleading was abject? Its repetitive, and for all writers learning about word economy, its wasteful. Remember too, adverbs arent just -ly words. Theyre also anything clarifying or modifying an adjective. If a writer finds the need to further describe a descriptor You see the red flag. Adverbs are the yellow brick road to purple prose the inclination to overcompensate with description necessary to further the plot. and overwriting sometimes insults the reader. Its not just word economy that the problem. If you feel you need to tell your reader exactly how the shouting sounded or exactly how the pleading was implied (example above), it seems you dont trust the intelligence of your reader, you believe they can come to these conclusions on their own without hand-holding. Deleting the adverbs often result in sharper sentences and give the verbs some breathing room. Adverbs can be useful. Because strong verbs dont always work alone. Roy Peter Clark, vice president and senior scholar of the Poynter Institute, says in Writing Tools: The earnest writer can overuse a writing tool. If you shoot up your verbs with steroids, you risk creating an effect that poet Donald Hall derides as false color, the stuff of adventure magazines and romance novels. Temperance controls the impulse to overwrite. Theyre effective when they change the meaning of a phrase. For example is killing me softly. If the writer said killing me fiercely it would not be helpful because its expected; softly though seems counter to killing. (Example from Writing Tools.) Sometimes they are good for speeding things along. When you don't have 800 pages to take a reader through every action, you might have to do some telling. Good storytelling is showing and telling effectively. Its easy to rely on adverbs. Just be careful how much you do. Theyre one tool. Keep that tool at a distance and use it sparingly, as needed. Avoid adverbs: Are they running slowly or are they jogging? The road to hell is paved with adverbs. ~ Stephen KingIn the writing world, adverbs are necessary, and other times, they liven up a sentence or strengthen a description. Today were going to explore adverbs and take a look at why they can be problematic and when they are essential. Lets start with a basic overview: Adjectives and adverbs are modify nouns whereas no difference in the problematic and when they are essential. Lets start with a basic overview: Adjectives and clauses. In fact, an adverb are modify nouns whereas no difference in the problematic and when they are essential. Lets start with a basic overview: Adjectives and clauses. In fact, an adverb are modify nouns whereas no difference in the problematic and when they are essential. Lets start with a basic overview: Adjectives and clauses. 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Why Adverbs Are Weak and How They Weaken Your WritingHeres a massive list of adverbs, although they are often cited as examples to demonstrate how adverbs work. Ask someone how to identify an adverb and theyll either tell you it modifies a verb or its one of those words that end in -ly. Why are adverbs that end in -ly so awful? Im glad you asked. Lets take a look at an example sentence. The adverb flirtatiously tells the reader how she asked the question, when instead it should show how she asked: Why don't you come over here and sit by me? she asked, batting her eyelashes. It may not be the greatest sentence ever written, but showing the character batting her eyelashes is a lot better than telling readers she asked a question flirtatiously. Visual cues show readers whats happening; adverbs tell them. And we want to show whats happening whenever possible to make our writing more vivid and easier to visualize. Most adverbs either tell us what we already know or use too many words to communicate an image or idea. Lets look at an adverb that modifies an adjective: Its a very warm day. Once we write that a day is warm, does it being very warm change the day in the readers mind? The word verydoes nothing other than intensify the word that follows it, and it does so poorly. Often, the word that is more precise: Its a hot day. In this sentence, we dont need the word very or the word warm. The word hot does the job. Its clearer and more concise, which is the mark of strong writing. How to Avoid Adverbs or Use Them WiselyAdverbs are the tool of the lazy writer. ~ Mark TwainIm always on the lookout for unnecessary words in my own writing. I find that seeking out adverbs is a good way to find words I can cut to tighten my prose. I may not catch them all, but I sure try. Here are some guidelines I apply when dealing with adverbs: Dont be lazy. Choosing the right word is never a waste of time. Stay away from adverbs that state the obvious. One does not scream loudly because by definition, screaming is done loudly. If a sentence is too short, dont add a bunch of adverbs (or adjectives) to make it longer. Train your eye to catch adverbs when youre editing and proofreading. When you can take whether its the best word choice. Use an adverb, ask whether its the best word choice. Use an adverb if its necessary and you can though imagery and description. Don't use an adverb as a crutch for a verb (or any other word). Look for a better verb. If necessary, write a better sentence. Sometimes when you eliminate a single adverb, you need to replace it with several words. It took three words (batting her eyelashes) to replace one adverb (flirtatiously), but the sentence became clearer and more vivid. Dont be redundant One does not stealthily creep because to creep is to movewith stealth. When you do use adverbs, use them intentionally and with purpose. Make it a goal to never use the words very or really. Are You Overusing Adverbs? Heres an exercise you can do to avoid adverbs in your writing: Dig through your writing and find a final draft that has been edited and proofread. Go through and highlight every adverbs and see if you missed any. How many adverbs did you find? How many adverbs were there per 100 words? Per 1000? Remove each adverb and ask whether doing so changes the meaning of the sentence. If it does change the meaning, then rewrite the sentence without the adverb. Now compare the original sentences with the adverbs intact to the new sentences that dont include any adverbs. Which ones are better? Using Adverbs well (the adverbs are italicized): Congress recently passed a new law. She entered the room silently. He drives a dark green sedan. As you can see, sometimes we need adverbs. We just need to use them sparingly. Are you attuned to how you use adverbs in your writing? Have you ever visited an old piece of writing and found it littered with unnecessary words? Do you have any writing tips to help other writers avoid adverbs or use adverbs wisely? Share your thoughts by leaving a comment, and keep writing. Adverbs are small things but they create a lot of debate. Youve probably heard that theyre unnecessary and clutter up your sentences. You might have heard the extreme rule Never use adverbs! But as with everything moderation is key. While its true that adverbs can be abused or overused (especially with new writers), they can be a useful tool. They offer clarity, emphasize details, and add style to the rhythm of your words. To understand how adverbs work and when to use them effectively, lets start with the basics. Lets go back another step. A verb is an action word something that describes a physical or mental action, or a state of being. Examples: My throat hurts. (Hurts describes the state of my throat.) They believe in Santa Claus. (Believe is a mental action.) She ran a marathon. (Ran is a physical action.) An adverb modifies or describes a verb. It gives extra details, such as how, when, where, to what extent, or under what conditions something happens. Take a look at these examples (verbs are underlined, adverbs are italicized): I visited the shop yesterday describes when the action occurred.) But she put it here. (Here describes where an action took place.) They left town suddenly. (Suddenly describes where an action occurred.) But she put it here. (Here describes when the action occurred.) But she put it here. (Here describes when the action occurred.) They left town suddenly. across adverbial phrases, which work the same way as adverbs but are made up of two or more words. They offer the reader additional context and information about an action. For example: It worked really well. She laughed like a hyena. After the movie, we drove home. When it comes to bashing adverbs, some advice out there is to avoid all words ending in -ly. This is because many adverbs end in -ly. Actually, badly, calmly, easily, especially, excitedly, fiercely, happily, kindly, lazily you get the idea. But not all adverbs end in -ly. Actually, badly, calmly, easily, especially, excitedly, fiercely, happily, kindly, lazily you get the idea. But not all adverbs end in -ly. For example, far, hard, even, ever, less, inside, today, always, soon, there, too, so, and yet are all adverbs. And not all -ly words are adverbs. Think about elderly, fatherly, deadly, orderly, chilly, homely, hourly, ally, monopoly, bully, tally, worldly. To understand if a word is an adverb, focus on what its modifying, not how it ends. Something like hard (ex: It hit the ground hard) describes how an action occurs, so it is an adverb. There are some situations where adverbs can clutter up your writing. Consider redundant adverbs: I dont know, he whispered softly. (Whispered already means that something is said softly) Are you sure, she asked questioningly. (Asking something is questioningly. (Asking something is questioningly.) They quickly hurried across the street. (Hurried means going quickly.) I dont care, she said dismissively. (The dialogue tells us that her tone is dismissive, we dont need the extra tag description.) Im scared, she said anxiously. (The dialogue tells us that her tone must be anxiously. (The dialogue tells us that her tone must be anxiously.) Redundant adverbs tell us things we already know from the verbs within dialogue tells us that her tone must be anxiously. new writers to overuse adverbs in dialogue or dialogue tags as an attempt to vary their saidisms using words like whispered, yelled, pronounced, etc. rather than he/she said. In narrative text, newbies typically overuse adverbs to create flowery, strong prose. But these can have the opposite effect. Sometimes a good verb is more effective than a weak verb and an adverb paired together, or even a strong verb with an adverb for emphasis. Take a look at these: They quickly hurried across the street is fast, urgent, and smooth.) Suddenly, the door slammed, making her jump. (The use of suddenly is a lead-in, so the action isnt sudden anymore. Sudden things are jarring. Consider instead, The door slammed. She jumped.) Put it to the test: If you can remove the adverb without losing meaning in the text, then it shouldnt be there. Despite the criticism, adverbs arent all bad. Sometimes a verb isnt enough to convey an idea or offer the right information. Used wisely, adverbs can make your writing clearer and more precise. Consider mood adverbs can give subtle hints about what is happening: He smiled cruelly. (Interesting, offers new information about mood and intention.) Adverbs can also contribute to the rhythm and flow of your sentences. Sometimes, a well-placed adverb can break up a monotony of short, punchy sentences and create a more varied reading experience. In instances where they replace phrases, they work to shorten your writing and make it more impactful. Shell be by before long. Shell be by soon. They ran away from the house and down the path with great joy. They happily ran from the house and down the path. In short, adverbs arent inherently bad, as some might suggest, but they can easily weigh your writing down if overused. The secret to using them effectively is knowing when they add value and when they ran from the house and down the path. In short, adverbs arent inherently bad, as some might suggest, but they can easily weigh your writing down if overused. The secret to using them effectively is knowing when they ran from the house and down if overused. something the verb or context isnt already saying? If you find yourself using adverbs just to make the sentence sound prettier, it might be time to rethink your approach. The best adverbs are the ones that enhance clarity or create a contrast that adds depth to your writing. Tagged adverbs, grammar, prose, writing tips If something goes wrong, this might mean that it could produce problems. If a problem comes from something that went wrong, this can be bad news for many people. Has an editor or a writing coach told you to cut back on the adverbs? And now, are you wondering: whats actually wrong with adverbs? Youre not alone. It seems like every writing expert out there has fixated on a single piece of advice: cut the adverbs. And thats fine; its usually sage advice. The problem is, few experts explain why. If theyre not grammatically incorrect, whats wrong with adverbs? Well, most of the time, theyre unnecessary. You could get your meaning across just as effectively (and usually even more effectively) by removing the adverb. Take this sentence as an example: I hate you! he screamed angrily. Adding an extra three syllables at the end of the sentence takes away the punch of the one-syllable verb screamed.Lets re-write it:I hate you! he screamed.Occasionally, adverbs will add to the meaning of your sentence. Usually, this is because the adverb adds temporal information, or contradicts the initial meaning of the sentence. Usually, this is because the adverb adds temporal information, or contradicts the initial meaning of the sentence. common problems with adverbs. Basically, adverbs are words that describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. For example, "I ran quickly to the store." The adverb quickly describes the verb run. What is an adverb? If a word is not easy to classify as a noun, verb, or adjective, it is probably an adverb. Some of the most common words in English are adverbs, including up, so, just, then, how, now, also, here, and more. Adverbs usually describe verbs are easy to find because they have the ly ending, such as quickly, surely, and certainly. However, many adverbs do not have the ly ending. Adverbs can also describe adjectives For example, "It is really cold today." In this example, really is an adverb that describes the adverb probably describes the almost anywhere in a sentence. Let us look at the adverb sometimes. It can go at the beginning of the sentence as in, "Sometimes walk to work." It can go at the end of the sentence. The adverb probably is an example. "She will probably leave early." It is incorrect to say, "Probably she will leave early or "She will leave early probably." Other such adverbs are never, rarely, seldom, and always. These are called mid-sentence adverbs. They usually go between the subject and the main verb. Different types of adverbs have different sentence positions. What's the difference between adverbs and adjectives? Adjectives describe nouns, while adverbs describing the noun she. But if you said, "She walks carefully," the adverbs carefully is describing the verb walk. Do you think this is hard? Hardly! Native speakers sometimes confuse adverbs and adjectives. The words hard and hardly are especially difficult. Hard is both an adverb. You can also say, "I worked hard," using the adverb, which means "with a lot of effort." Hardly is an adverb. A long time ago, it meant "in a hard manner," but its meaning has changed. People used to say "not hardly. Over time, the word not disappeared. Since the 1500s, hardly has meaning of hard and hardly has become the basis for jokes. Listen to cartoon character Homer Simpson playing with the confusion between hard and hardly. In the scene, Homers co-workers are replaced with robots. "So you guys are my new co-working? Working? WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING? ITS A SIMPLE QUESTION!"Homer is asking the robots if they are working hard (working with energy) or hardly working a little). The robots, with their exact reasoning, do not understand the word play in the question. We will leave you with a song that uses the adverb softly in an unexpected way. Listen to the Fugees version of the classic song "Killing Me Softly with His Song."Strumming my pain with his fingersSinging my life with his wordsKilling me softly with his song Im Jonathan Evans. And Im Ashley Thompson. See this excellent reference on adjectives and adverbs from Purdue Universitys Online Writing Lab. Adam Brock wrote and produced this story Words in This Story adverb - gramm. term. a word that describes a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a sentence and that is often used to show time, manner, place, or degreeadjective - gramm. term. a word that describes a noun or a pronounclassify v. to consider (someone or something) as belonging to a particular groupword play n. playful or clever use of words If youve been studying the craft of writing for any length of time, youve undoubtedly come across countless writers who think adverbs are evil. As you can see from the previous sentence, I don't think theyreevil. But I do think you need to exercise caution when using them in your fiction. We should startby defining what they are. Then Ill talk about the problem with adverbs in general and offer a demonstration of why they can be problematic. Lolly Lolly, get your first exposure to adverbs was probably from these guys below. Schoolhouse Rock teaches us that adverbs are modifier words. Lets see what theLollies have to say about them: An adverb is a word That modifies an adjective, Or else another adverb. And so you see that its positively, very, necessary. The first four lines tell you exactly what you need to know in terms of a definition. If you run, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if your house is painted red, you are. If your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if you really want to do some grammatical gymnastics, maybe your house is painted red, youre not using an adverb. But if you really want to do some grammatical gymnastics, maybe your house is painted. Or even house is painted red, you are. painted. But look at the last line of the quote. As Pooh would say, oh bother! There was a writer (the name slips my mind) who once said In order to become a successful writer, I had to forget everything they taught me in English class. Let that last quoted line from Schoolhouse Rock be one of the things you forget. But Whats the Big Deal? When you read my advice to forget that last quoted line, you may have asked yourself why? And thats ok. New writers have a tendency to lean on adverbs out of a misquided notion that theyre being more descriptive. The truth, however, is quite the opposite. Rather than specify, adverbs create ambiguity. Id like to offer an example or two from a work I recently edited for an up-and-coming writer. He wrote the following: They opened the portal carefully. Seems innocent enough, right? The problem is that carefully encapsulates a lot of information that youre no longer showing the reader. Instead, your etelling them. Don't get me wrong. Theres a time and place for telling; summaries are prime candidates, or any long period of time you want to gloss over in favor of getting to the interesting bits. But the sentence above was in the middle of a suspense sequence, and rather than build tension, the writer just hit me with they opened the portal carefully. As a reader, it was a bit of a letdown. Not only was the wordcarefully telling instead of showing, itwasnt specific enough to draw me in and keep me in the fictive dream state. So how do we fix it? I can tell you what I did with the above situation: I asked a lot of questions. I asked the writer to give me images of what he was trying to convey. What was the tone? The mood? The setting? Did any one particular character (encapsulated in that ambiguous they) have more at stake than the others? When I had my answers, I scribbled the following: They approached the doorway with slow, deliberate steps, and Bob hopedhe wasnt leading them into atrap. When he pulled the handle, he paused, gesturing for the others to remain silent. He didnt want the telltale sign of a tripwire or a lit fuse to slip by unnoticed. All it would take to give uptheir position, and forfeittheir lives, would bea moments loss of concentration. When nothing happened, he opened the door the rest of the way. First-draft quality, but this was meant to spark his imagination with what might be possible in his scene, not provide him with publishable copy. I think you can see the difference, though. In the first version, hetold the reader what the group did. In the second version, Ishowed the reader what the group did. In the second version, Ishowed the reader what the group did. In the second version, Ishowed the reader what the group did. In the second version, Ishowed the reader what the group did. In the second version, Ishowed the reader what the group did. In the second version, Ishowed the reader what the group did. 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Yes this can increase word count if there isnt an immediate, stronger verb selection that set the tone and build tension in your reader is not the place to sacrifice words. Read that again if you have to. Ill wait. If you want to slash word count, Im with you! Ive got a HUGE collection of swords and daggers I can use to totally gut that manuscript. But my targets are better; x of the y constructs. Overused phrases. Unnecessary dialog attribution. Over explaining. The word that. Filter words. Qualifiers. Intensifiers. Intensifiers. The list goes on. Trust me when I tell you if your goal is to reduce words, you probably have a target-rich environment. We all do in our early drafts. Dontfear adverbs. And dont assume youve done something wrong every time you find one in your work. Yes, its telling and not show. If youre making an educated decision to tell, then tell. And do so proudly. But if you find an adverb or two in an area where you really should be descriptive, then rework it. As always, the goal is to create a fictive dream state in the reader and keep them there with every word on the page. Evaluate every word choice by whether or not it accomplishes that task and youll be miles ahead of most other writers. Sign up for the free Erindor Press newsletter. Stay Informed. Be a better writer. Your contact information will NEVER be shared for ANY reason. Join Nat on Facebook for additional content that he doesn't post on the blog or on Twitter. Be part of the conversation! Head on over to The Mukhtaar Estate and see what everyones talking about! The road to hell is paved with adverbs. So says master writer Stephen King in his memoir of the craft, On Writing. Hes right. Sort of. Often. The thing is, adverbs are often a weaker choice than other options when you paint a scene or describe a person. However they can sometimes be just the thing to add details while keeping text lean. Today well take a deep dive into adverbs: what they are, why theyre used, how people make mistakes using them, and how to use them well. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. The majority of adverbs end with lyPeople usually fully understand the difference between nouns and verbs, but sometimes get mixed about adverbs vs. adjectives hecause they describe and modify the nouns Johnny and cake. Quickly is an adverb because it describes and modifies the verb ate. In the sentence The best friends went everywhere is the adverbs because it describes the noun friends. Everywhere is the adverb because it describes the noun friends. Everywhere is the adverb because it describes the verb went. How Are Adverbs used:

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Describes the verb ways and the English occupies about 10% of the total number of words. Despite this variety, they fall into seven broad categories. Interrogative Adverbs These go at the beginning of a question and modify a verb with a state of uncertainty. They create a question, hence the name. Youll recognize them from the list of journalistic questions. Examples include: How is your brother doing? When does lunch start? Where are my shoes? Why is he late? How to I get there? Relative Adverbs These join a clause or sentence with another clause or sentence with another doing? When does lunch start? Where are my shoes? Why is he late? How to I get there? Relative Adverbs These join a clause or sentence with another clause or sentence with another clause. skateboard.Next year is when you can learn to drive.I dont know why hes so late to the meeting.Simple AdverbsThis is the largest category and most frequency, matter, number, and other details. Examples include: They partly completed the assignment on time. She told the secret quietly. We never eat dessert before dinner. When it hit the fan, it went everywhere. Aunt Lin will get there soon. Focusing Adverbs These focus the reader on specific information, either by calling out emphasis, detailing restrictions, or ordering information. They were usually placed before they noun they modify. Examples include: David also ate the spiders. Sal and Jose even washed the cheese grater. Only Calvin is allowed inside the house. Her remarks were purely spiteful. Adverbs of AttitudeSome adverbs modify the word less than they indicate an interpretation by a narrator or speaker about the situation they help describe. These also tend to feature heavily in snark and sarcasm. Examples include: You can naturally come with us if you want. Apparently you didn't get the message about todays start time. She clearly doesn't care about the verb, adjective, or adverb they describe. Most often they indicate attitude, degrees of certainty, or some kind of judgment. Examples include: She honestly admitted what she had done. He is obviously the smartest person in the room. Presumably, they will get the job done like they promised. They gave out grades fairly. The hero foolishly left her armor at home. Linking Adverbs Linking adverbs connect ideas. They differ from relative adverbs in that they dont serve between a dependent and independent clause, but rather connect discrete ideas. Examples include: He liked the cake but nevertheless ordered a salad. I drove to her house; otherwise I would have had to walk. She gave him food, and furthermore let him spend the night on the couch. Adverb Fluidity When thinking about what kind of adverb one is, keep in mind that the key is its usage, not the word itself. Any given adverb can fall into several different categories. Common Adverb Errors (and How to Avoid Them) King doesnt have his opinion about adverbs because they are universally and essentially bad. He has his opinion because of how frequently people make mistakes in their usage. These arent grammar errors. The grammar involved with adverbs is pretty simple. Its a matter of style and art. When you choose to use adverbs, do your best to avoid these most common mistakes. Telling Instead of Showing This is the most common mistakes. Telling Instead of Showing This is the most common mistakes. have happened with adjectives or verbs doing the same work. He moved quickly doesnt have the same punch as He sprinted. This is especially common in dialogue, where a writer will use a tag instead of more colorful, powerful language. Compare these three descriptions of the same statement: Ive had enough! Sarah said loudly. Ive had enough! Sarah shouted. Ive bloody well had enough! Sarah said. She slammed her fist on the table. If you suspect youre using an adverb to create a more impactful sentence. Sometimes Its Okay, ThoughWhen you want to indicate a detail but not make that detail the focus of a sentence, you can do that by using an adverb. It gives a little color to the statement without drawing unneeded focus. Pro Tip: Check out our guide to Show vs Tell for more tips about how to include descriptions in your books. Redundancy People throw in adverbs sometimes because they feel natural, even when they dont add anything meaningful to the sentence. She shouted loudly into the phone is one word too long, because anybody shouting is by definition being loud about it. Thats the whole point of shouting. Look out for this also when using two adverbs in the same sentence. A slow and leisurely walk tells you the pace and tempo of the walk twice. You could cut it down to a slow walk or a leisurely walk without losing anything. You could even just call it a stroll. One final form of redundant adverb is when you modify a word that doesnt work, because bankrupt means youre out of money. Its a binary proposition. Its very unique doesnt work since unique is an absolute state. Nothing is partially unique. Very perfect doesn't work because perfect is the best possible state. You can use redundancy effectively to emphasize a point even though the usage is technically incorrect. Just make sure youre doing it on purpose. Contradiction This is the opposite of redundancy: adverbs that modify a word in a nonsensical way. Look at these examples: She literally jumped a thousand yards. The dog slobbered neatly onto the pillow. He was totally half paying attention. In all these cases, the adverb cancels out the verb it modifies. Its best to rewrite these sentences completely, sometimes taking a minute beforehand to make sure you know what you really mean by them. Here are those same sentences fixed: It seemed like she jumped a thousand yards. The dog drooled a little onto the pillow. He spaced out completely for a minute. Sometimes Its Okay, ThoughOxymorons like jumbo shrimp are part of common language. Although they contradict each other, their meaning is clear within the context of how we use English. Theyre safe to use, but only if used with care. Placement Issues This is the only grammar-oriented item on this list, and best illustrated by the following sentence. She told the walrus she loved him. She to loved him. She told the walrus she only loved him only. You see what I mean. When youre editing, if you find a sentence with an adverb that confuses some of your beta readers, check in on the adverbs placement. That might be the source of your problem. Sometimes Its Okay, ThoughIn some cases, you can use odd adverb placement to give your language a whimsical or poetic feel. Thats totally okay, but only if you did it on purpose for that reason. Most of the time its a mistake, and one we shouldnt double down on. Photo by Liliana Drew. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. How can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explainhow.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage. Discover The Collection Curated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of EditorsPicks.Browse Editors' FavoritesHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explainhow.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage. Discover The Collection Curated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of EditorsPicks.Browse Editors' FavoritesHow can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? Our experts explainhow.Learn MoreThe Motorsport Images Collections captures events from 1895 to todays most recentcoverage. Discover The Collection Curated, compelling, and worth your time. Explore our latest gallery of EditorsPicks.Browse Editors' FavoritesAdverbs are words that modify other words, like adjectives and verbs are grammatically correct, but not all adverbs are grammatically correct, but not all adverbs are words that modify other words, like adjectives and verbs are grammatically correct, but not all adverbs are grammatically correct, but not all adverbs are grammatically correct, but not all adverbs are words that modify other words, like adjectives and verbs are grammatically correct, but not all adverbs are grammatically correct. adjectives or verbs. Most writing software highlights all instances of -ly adverbs are bad. In fact, some are necessary, like adverbs modify weak verbs and adjectives. They say in many words what a strong emotive verb than ran. It also says in one word. For instance: The dog raced to its owner. Raced is a stronger, more emotive verb than 15 bad adverbs in your writing. You can fix bad adverbs by replacing them with stronger verbs, nouns, or adjectives. Why Bad Adverbs are a part of speech, just like any other. Theres nothing inherently wrong with using an adverb are often used in instances when a stronger verb would do a better job of conveying meaning: He walked swiftly towards the window. Dashed is a stronger, more evocative verb. Dashed also says the same thing in one word that walked swiftly towards the window. He dashed towards the window with conciseness, stronger verbs are better for your work than adverbs and weak verbs. The same goes for adjectives: a strong noun or single adjective is better than a string of adverb descriptors. Examples of Bad Adverbs There are three main categories to watch out for: #1: When the adverb because its redundant when used with whispering is already quiet. No need to say so again. Here are some more examples of redundant adverbs: When she pressed "undo," the document reverted backto its original state. The baseball fans screamed loudly when their star shortstop hit a home run. #2: When the adverb modifies a weak verb or adjective Not all adverbs are created equal. Neither are all verbs. For example: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly with a stronger, more emotive verb: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly with a stronger, more emotive verb: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly with a stronger, more emotive verb: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly with a stronger, more emotive verb: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly with a stronger, more emotive verb: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly with a stronger, more emotive verb: When Joshua saw his sister fall, he called loudly for help. You can replace called loudly for help. mothers house. Martha walked slowly to the store after practice. #3: When the adverb doesnt add any solid information Certain adverbs dont provide any value to your text. These include adverb doesnt add any solid information Certain adverbs dont provide any value to your text. These include adverbs like extremely, definitely, truly, very, and really. Think about it: what does very mean, anyway? Nothing solid! So if youre tempted to use very (or another of these adverbs), its better to replace it with a stronger verb or adjective. Not All Adverbs Are Created Equal: What Makes a Good Adverbs that add context or new information Adverbs of time, for instance, give context to when something happened: They went early to the game to get better seats. The adverbs can fix phrasing that feels strange or clunky. Consider: He threw the bags into the corner in a rough manner. He threw the bags into the corner roughly. The second option is clearer and easier to read. Not all adverbs are bad. Not all adverbs are good. As the author, you have the power to decide whether or not to include adverbs in your writing. Stephen King said: The road to hell is paved with adverbs. While the author is renowned for such sentiments, hes equally criticized for them. And hes not the only writer to bad-mouth the part of speech. It may not be quite as heated as the Oxford comma debate, but adverbs have long been condemned by English professors, journalists and best-selling writers. On one hand, it seems every part of speech nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs has an important role in language, and that exiling just one of them is irresponsible. But on the other hand, adverbs seem the weakest of the four. Adverbs arent in themselves to boring verbs. This is the argument most often made against adverbs. If you need an adverb to help your verb, it means your verb isnt strong enough. In many cases, adverbs act as a crutch. Take these examples: She wholeheartedly believed in hope. She clung to hope. He tearfully lookedinto the sun. He squinted into the sun. In both cases, the stronger verb stands up on its own. The pairing of weak verbs with fluffy adverbs often results in telling rather than showing. Adverbs cause overwriting. Writers use adverbs to over-clarify. Take these examples from Kings book On Writing: Put it down! she shouted menacingly. Give it back, he pleaded abjectly, its mine. Dont be such a fool, Jekyll, Utterson said contemptuously. Why do we need to clarify that the shouting was menacing, or that his pleading was abject? Its repetitive, and for all writers learning about word economy, its wasteful. Remember too, adverbs are the yellow brick road to purple prose the inclination to overcompensate with description rather than only using the description necessary to further the plot.and overwriting sometimes insults the reader. Its not just word economy thats the problem. If you feel you need to tell your reader exactly how the shouting sounded or exactly how the pleading was implied (example above), it seems you don't trust the intelligence of your reader. If you trust your reader, you believe they can come to these conclusions on their own without hand-holding. Deleting the adverbs often result in sharper sentences and give the verbs some breathing room. Adverbs can be useful. Because strong verbs dont always work alone. Roy Peter Clark, vice president and senior scholar of the Poynter Institute, says in Writing Tools: The earnest writer can overwrite and romance novels. Temperance controls the impulse to overwrite. Theyre effective when they change the meaning of a phrase. For example: killing me softly. If the writer said killing me fiercely it would not be helpful because its expected; softly though seems counter to killing. (Example from Writing Tools.) Sometimes they are good for speeding things along. When you dont have 800 pages to take a reader through every action, you might have to do some telling. Good storytelling is showing and telling effectively. Its easy to rely on adverbs. Just be careful how much you do. Theyre one tool. Keep that tool at a distance and use it sparingly, as needed.

Stephen King said: The road to hell is paved with adverbs. While the author is renowned for such sentiments, hes equally criticized for them. And hes not the only writer to bad-mouth the part of speech. It may not be quite as heated as the Oxford comma debate, but adverbs have long been condemned by English professors, journalists and best-selling

What is wrong with adverbs when it comes to batting wordiness.