

## *Bad and Badly, Good and Well*

*Bad* is an adjective. *Badly* is an adverb. *Good* is an adjective, but *well* may be used as an adjective or as an adverb. The adjectives should be used to follow a sense verb or other linking verb. The adverbs should be used to modify action verbs.

**ADJECTIVES** I felt **bad** so I stayed in and read a book, which was, by the way, quite **good**.

**ADVERBS** Although he started the race **badly**, by the first turn Marcus was doing quite **well**.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the word that is modified by the underlined word.

**Example 1.** After three days of bed rest, Tamika finally felt well again.

- Rachel wanted badly to go on the trip, so she saved up money for the airfare.
- Miriam sang well in the role of Pitti-Sing in our production of *The Mikado*.
- Most Americans feel good about the freedoms they enjoy.
- After the soup boiled over, the kitchen smelled bad.
- That green shirt looks good with your red hair.

**EXERCISE B** In each sentence below, underline the modifier in parentheses that is correct according to the rules of formal, standard English.

**Example 1.** Is there a performer you think is especially (good, *well*)?

- Celia Cruz puts on a (*good*, *well*) show.
- I feel (*bad*, *badly*) because I haven't seen her perform more often.
- She sings Cuban music (*good*, *well*).
- My cousins want very (*bad*, *badly*) to go to one of her shows.
- Some entertainers are uncomfortable in front of a large audience; such insecurity can look (*bad*, *badly*).
- Celia Cruz handles an audience (*good*, *well*).
- I missed one of her shows because I didn't feel (*good*, *well*).
- Missing the show made me feel as (*bad*, *badly*) as having the illness.
- The next time I went, I was surprised at how (*good*, *well*) her voice was.
- Cruz has made more than fifty records, and most of them are very (*good*, *well*).

## Slow and Slowly, Real and Really

*Slow* is used as both an adjective and an adverb. *Slowly* is used as an adverb. In most adverb uses, *slowly* is better than *slow*. *Real* is an adjective. *Really* is an adverb meaning “truly” or “actually.” Informally, *real* is used as an adverb meaning “very.”

**ADJECTIVES** That **slow** train is a **real** replica of an old steam engine.

**ADVERBS** I was moving so **slowly** after the hike because I **really** needed some water.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the word or words modified by the underlined word.

**Example 1.** Move the furniture slowly so the pieces don't bump into the walls.

1. Charles really is leaving, isn't he?
2. This elevator is so slow.
3. I could not believe that the story she was telling me was real.
4. The dogs seemed really excited to be going to the park.
5. Alex slowly moved his pawns to the center of the chessboard.

**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, underline the modifier in parentheses that is correct according to the rules of formal, standard English.

**Example 1.** I studied (*real*, *really*) hard until midnight last night.

6. After taking my exams and going to work, I felt (*real*, *really*) tired.
7. The car began to move (*slow*, *slowly*), but it soon gathered speed.
8. Is that whole headdress made from (*real*, *really*) eagle feathers?
9. Denise (*real*, *really*) wants to attend the symphony's next performance.
10. The lecture was so boring that the time passed very (*slow*, *slowly*).
11. On the dance floor, Scott's movements are (*slow*, *slowly*) and his expression is calm.
12. Mr. Nasuma is a (*real*, *really*) expert on arachnids.
13. Are you sure these pearls are not (*real*, *really*) valuable?
14. A horse-and-carriage ride is (*slow*, *slowly*) but certainly provides a wonderful view.
15. Even if you walk (*slow*, *slowly*), you get cardiovascular benefit.

## Eight Troublesome Modifiers

The words *bad*, *good*, *slow*, and *real* are typically used as adjectives. The words *badly*, *well*, *slowly*, and *really* are typically used as adverbs, except when *well* is used to denote good health, as in "I feel well."

**ADJECTIVES** I feel **bad** that I missed seeing that **good** movie. I heard the beginning of the film was **slow** but that the action seemed **real**.

**ADVERBS** The coach was **badly** mistaken when she thought the game was going **well**. **Slowly** the team began to tire, and that was when their opponents **really** began to advance.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the word or words modified by the underlined word.

**Example 1.** Do you really think it's going to rain this weekend?

- Coach Garza believes that physical health and mental exercise are both really important.
- If you do not exercise physically, you may feel bad.
- Likewise, your brain also requires some good exercise.
- Coach Garza feels well when she makes time for both every day.
- She slowly convinced me of the benefits of exercise.

**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, underline the modifier in parentheses that is correct according to the rules of formal, standard English.

**Example 1.** Being outside on such a beautiful day feels (good, well).

- That pony is not (*real*, *really*) going to jump the fence, is it?
- Traffic is moving (*slow*, *slowly*) today.
- The concert did not go too (*bad*, *badly*), though there were some mistakes.
- I do not think I feel (*good*, *well*) enough to play basketball today.
- Mrs. Kung (*slow*, *slowly*) pruned her rosebushes.
- The politician felt (*good*, *well*) about his speech to the audience yesterday afternoon.
- Tabitha said she saw a (*real*, *really*) van Gogh painting at her neighbor's house, but I doubt it.
- George felt (*bad*, *badly*) that he had missed the goal, but he made several others.
- Sue landed (*bad*, *badly*) on her left foot and sprained her ankle.
- My mother plays piano (*good*, *well*) for a beginner.