

Expand Sentences with Descriptive Words

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Add adjectives to describe a noun — what color, size, kind, or how many
- 2 Add adverbs to describe a verb — how the action happens
- 3 Expand a plain sentence into a more detailed, interesting sentence

MINI LESSON

A plain sentence tells us something, but a descriptive sentence makes us see, hear, and feel it. The secret? Add adjectives and adverbs!

Adjectives — Describing Nouns

- An adjective describes a person, place, or thing (a noun).
- It tells us: what color, what size, what kind, how many.
- Plain: The dog barked.
- Better: The big, fluffy dog barked.
- Adjectives usually come before the noun they describe.

Adverbs — Describing Actions

- An adverb describes a verb — it tells us how something happens.
- Many adverbs end in -ly: quickly, loudly, softly, slowly.
- Plain: The dog barked.
- Better: The big, fluffy dog barked loudly.

Where to Add Them

- Add an adjective before the noun: "the tiny bird."
- Add an adverb after the verb: "she ran quickly."
- Don't pile on too many — 1 or 2 descriptive words is just right.

VOCABULARY

Adjective	A word that describes a noun — telling what color, size, kind, or how many <i>e.g. the tiny bird, a blue coat</i>
Adverb	A word that describes a verb — telling how an action happens <i>e.g. ran quickly, spoke softly</i>
Noun	A person, place, or thing <i>e.g. dog, park, Maya</i>
Verb	An action word — what someone or something does <i>e.g. run, sing, jump</i>
Descriptive	Giving details that help the reader picture something <i>e.g. The fluffy white cat purred.</i>

Expand Your Sentences!

Plain:

The cat sat on the mat.

add descriptive words

Better:

The **tiny orange** cat sat
on the mat **quietly** .

blue = adjective orange = adverb

Ask These Questions

Adjective

What color?
What size?
What kind?
How many?

describes a NOUN

Adverb

How?
quickly, softly
loudly, slowly
carefully, fast

describes a VERB

! Ask yourself: "What does it look like? How does the action happen? Can I add one word to make this sentence more interesting?"

TRACING PRACTICE

Trace each sentence, then copy it once on the lines below. Add an adjective before the noun and an adverb after the verb.

TRACE

The tiny bird sang

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

She ran quickly ho

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

A fluffy white cat s

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

He spoke very sof

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

The red truck hon

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

adjective

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

adverb

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

describe

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

quickly

COPY 1

COPY 2

TRACE

softly

COPY 1

COPY 2

Tip: When you trace an adjective, think of a noun it could describe. When you trace an adverb, think of an action it could tell us about.

EXERCISES — BUILD THE SENTENCES

Use the word chips for each line to build the correct sentence. Write it neatly on the lines — capital letter at the start, finger-space between words, period at the end.

1. quickly fluffy The . hopped white rabbit

2. tall tree swayed . gently A green

3. truck The drove . fire red by loud

4. little laughed . loudly sister very My

5. scary The cold dark felt night .

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What does an adjective describe?

- a verb (action word)
- a noun (person, place, or thing)
- a punctuation mark

2. Which word is the adverb in this sentence? "She sang beautifully."

- She
- sang
- beautifully

3. Where does an adjective usually go in a sentence?

- after the verb
- before the noun it describes
- at the very end of the sentence

4. Which word is most likely an adverb?

- slowly
- flower
- orange

5. Why do we add adjectives and adverbs to sentences?

- to make sentences shorter
- to add punctuation marks
- to make sentences more interesting and detailed

6. Which word is the adjective in this sentence? "A tiny bird landed on the branch."

- landed
- tiny
- branch

7. Which sentence has been expanded with a descriptive word?

- The dog ran.
- The shaggy dog ran fast.
- A dog.

8. Which word tells us HOW she read? "She read quietly in her room."

- room
- quietly
- read

9. Adjectives answer questions like "what kind?" and "what size?" about a ____.

- verb
- punctuation mark
- noun

10. Can you use more than one adjective before a noun?

- Yes — "the big red ball" uses two adjectives.
- No — only one adjective is allowed.
- No — adjectives can only come after the noun.

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Points to the adjective in a sentence and names the noun it describes.
- Points to the adverb in a sentence and names the verb it describes.
- Rewrites a plain sentence on paper by adding at least one adjective or adverb.
- Places the adjective before the noun and the adverb after the verb in a written sentence.