

Using Adjectives and Adverbs

When you read a book, you want to be able to imagine the events. If you are reading about a beach scene, you want to be able to *see* the gulls, *hear* the roar of the ocean, *taste* the salt water, *smell* the fresh air, and *feel* the grit of the sand.

Adjectives are the words that give this kind of information. An **adjective** is a word used to modify a noun or a pronoun.

Original:	The boy wanted the toy robot. It was expensive. The boy was excited.
Combined:	The <i>excited</i> boy wanted the <i>expensive</i> toy robot.

Not only do readers want to read specific descriptions of people, places, things, and ideas, but readers also want to know *how*, *when*, *where*, and *to what extent* the action is taking place.

Adverbs are the words that give this kind of information. An **adverb** is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Original:	The excited boy wanted the expensive toy robot. It was very expensive. He wanted it desperately.
Combined:	The excited boy <i>desperately</i> wanted the <i>very</i> expensive toy robot.

NOTE: Remember to use commas to separate two or more modifiers preceding a noun.

DIRECTIONS Use *adjectives and adverbs* to combine the following sets of sentences. Decide whether you need to use commas or *and*.

EXAMPLE	Before the hurricane, clouds scudded across the sky.
	The clouds were steely gray. The clouds were moving rapidly.
	<i>Before the hurricane, steely gray clouds scudded rapidly across the sky.</i>

1. Cecilia's swollen eyes were the result of a weekend with her sister's cat.
Her eyes were itchy. The cat was affectionate.
The cat was longhaired. The cat was a Persian.

2. After Julio studied for the math exam, he played some chords quietly on his uncle's guitar.

He studied diligently.

He played quietly.

3. The counselor decided to recommend Alicia for advanced placement classes.

The counselor was intuitive.

The counselor was confident.

4. When Grace was looking for her favorite purple socks, she disturbed several dust bunnies under her bed.

She looked frantically.

The dust bunnies were enormous.

5. When I leaped the fence to get the basketball, the neighbors' beagle turned into fifteen pounds of fury.

The fury was snarling.

The beagle was usually sweet-tempered.

6. After their performance, the band members congratulated one another and their surprised teacher.

The performance was award-winning. The band members were thrilled.

Their teacher's surprise was great.

7. Since Cleo forgot the road atlas, we were lost by the time we reached the bypass.

Cleo was absent-minded.

The bypass was unfamiliar.

The bypass was congested.

We reached the bypass finally.

8. When Moira opened the backpack, she was astonished to find a sandwich, a banana, her gym clothes, and a note from her algebra teacher.

The sandwich was half-eaten.

The banana was black.

The gym clothes were unwashed.

The note was old.

The note was unread.

Answer Keys:

1. Cecilia's itchy, swollen eyes were the result of a weekend with her sister's affectionate, longhaired Persian cat.
2. After Julio studied diligently for the math exam, he quietly played some chords on his uncle's guitar.
3. The intuitive and confident counselor decided to recommend Alicia for advanced placement classes.
4. When Grace was frantically looking for her favorite purple socks, she disturbed several enormous dust bunnies under her bed.
5. When I leaped the fence to get the basketball, the neighbors' usually sweet-tempered beagle turned into fifteen pounds of snarling fury.
6. After their award-winning performance, the thrilled band members congratulated one another and their greatly surprised teacher.
7. Since absent-minded Cleo forgot the road atlas, we were lost by the time we finally reached the unfamiliar and congested bypass.
8. When Moira opened the backpack, she was astonished to find a half-eaten sandwich, a black banana, her unwashed gym clothes, and an old unread note from her algebra teacher.