

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
claro	clara	claramente
constante	constante	constantemente
difícil	difícil	difícilmente

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

nunca

never

demasiado

too

peor

worse

mal

badly

poco

little

mucho

a lot

siempre

always

muy

very

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.