



Adjective vs Adverb: Mixed Adjective vs Adverb Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The project is progressing _____. We should finish on time.
a) smoother
b) smoothness
c) smooth
d) smoothly
- She remained ____ despite the chaos around her.
a) calm
b) calmness
c) calmer
d) calmly
- He can ____ wait to start his new job.
a) hardness
b) hard
c) harder
d) hardly
- The singer sang ____ at the wedding ceremony.
a) beautiful
b) beautifully
c) beauty
d) beautify
- The cake smells _____. I can't wait to try it.
a) amazingly
b) amazement
c) amazing
d) amaze
- She performed ____ at the piano recital.
a) brilliance
b) brilliant
c) brilliantly
d) brighter
- The teacher spoke ____ so that everyone could understand.
a) clearly
b) clearer
c) clear
d) clearness
- He felt ____ after eating the seafood.
a) sickening
b) sickly
c) sick
d) sickness
- The athletes trained ____ for the competition.
a) hardly
b) harder
c) hardness
d) hard
- The music at the concert was incredibly _____.
a) loud
b) loudly
c) loudness
d) louder
- The audience remained ____ throughout the performance.
a) silencing
b) silent
c) silence
d) silently

12. He looked ____ in his new suit.
a) smarts
b) smartness
c) smartly
d) smart
13. The news spread ____ through the small town.
a) quickly
b) quick
c) quickness
d) quicken
14. The soup tasted slightly _____. I added more salt.
a) blander
b) blandness
c) blandly
d) bland
15. The rocket flew ____ into the atmosphere.
a) high
b) height
c) heighten
d) highly
16. Everyone stayed ____ when they heard the loud noise.
a) stills
b) still
c) stillness
d) stilly
17. She always dresses ____ for special occasions.
a) elegant
b) elegance
c) elegantly
d) more elegant
18. The coffee tastes ____ today. Did you change the beans?
a) differ
b) different
c) differently
d) difference
19. The streets were ____ after the heavy snowfall.
a) danger
b) dangerously
c) dangerous
d) endanger
20. We need to act ____ before the situation gets worse.
a) fastly
b) fast
c) fastness
d) fastest



Answers

1. d) smoothly
2. a) calm
3. d) hardly
4. b) beautifully
5. c) amazing
6. c) brilliantly
7. a) clearly
8. c) sick
9. d) hard
10. a) loud
11. b) silent
12. d) smart
13. a) quickly
14. d) bland
15. a) high
16. b) still
17. c) elegantly
18. b) different
19. c) dangerous
20. b) fast



Explanations

1. “smoothly” (d)

'Smoothly' is an adverb that describes how the project is progressing (the verb). After an action verb like 'progressing', we use an adverb. 'Smooth' is an adjective (e.g., 'a smooth process').

2. “calm” (a)

'Remain' is a linking verb meaning 'stayed in a state'. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Calm' describes her state. 'Calmly' is an adverb used with action verbs (e.g., 'She spoke calmly').

3. “hardly” (d)

'Hardly' means 'barely' or 'almost not'. 'Can hardly wait' = is so excited that waiting is almost impossible. Remember: 'hard' means 'with great effort' (He worked hard), while 'hardly' means 'barely' (He hardly worked).

4. “beautifully” (b)

'Beautifully' is an adverb that describes how the singer sang (the verb). After an action verb, we use an adverb. 'Beautiful' is an adjective (e.g., 'a beautiful song') and cannot modify a verb.

5. “amazing” (c)

'Smell' is a linking verb here, describing the quality of the cake's scent. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Amazing' describes the cake. A common mistake is to say 'smells amazingly' — linking verbs take adjectives, not adverbs.

6. “brilliantly” (c)

'Brilliantly' is an adverb that describes how she performed (the verb). After an action verb, we use an adverb. 'Brilliant' is an adjective (e.g., 'a brilliant performance').

7. “clearly” (a)

'Clearly' is an adverb that describes how the teacher spoke (the verb). After an action verb, we use an adverb. 'Clear' is an adjective (e.g., 'a clear explanation').

8. “sick” (c)

'Feel' is a linking verb here, describing a physical state. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Sick' describes how he felt. 'Sickly' means 'often ill in general' (e.g., 'a sickly child'), not how someone feels at a specific moment.

9. “hard” (d)

'Hard' as an adverb means 'with great effort or intensity'. 'Trained hard' = trained with maximum effort. Remember: 'hardly' means 'barely' — 'trained hardly' would mean they barely trained, which is the opposite meaning!

10. “loud” (a)

'Was' is a linking verb. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Loud' describes the music. 'Loudly' is an adverb used with action verbs (e.g., 'The band played loudly').

11. “silent” (b)

'Remain' is a linking verb meaning 'stayed in a state'. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Silent' describes the audience's state. 'Silently' is an adverb used with action verbs (e.g., 'They sat silently').

12. “smart” (d)

'Look' is a linking verb here, meaning 'appeared'. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Smart' describes his appearance. 'Smartly' is an adverb (e.g., 'smartly dressed'), but after the linking verb 'looked', we need the adjective form.

13. “quickly” (a)

'Spread' is an action verb here. After an action verb, we use an adverb. 'Quickly' describes how the news spread. 'Quick' is an adjective (e.g., 'a quick response').

14. “bland” (d)

'Taste' is a linking verb here, describing the quality of the soup. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Bland' describes the soup's flavour. 'Blandly' would only be correct with an action verb.

15. “high” (a)

'High' as an adverb refers to physical altitude. 'Flew high' = flew to a great height. 'Highly' means 'very much' (e.g., 'highly skilled') and cannot be used for physical height.

16. “still” (b)

'Stay' is a linking verb meaning 'remained in a state'. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Still' as an adjective means 'not moving'. Everyone froze and didn't move.

17. “elegantly” (c)

'Dress' is an action verb (the act of choosing and wearing clothes). After an action verb, we use an adverb. 'Elegantly' describes how she dresses. 'Elegant' is an adjective (e.g., 'an elegant outfit').

18. “different” (b)

'Taste' is a linking verb here, describing the coffee's quality. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Different' describes the coffee's flavour. 'Differently' would mean the coffee uses a different method to taste things — but coffee doesn't taste things!

19. “dangerous” (c)

'Were' is a linking verb. After a linking verb, we use an adjective. 'Dangerous' describes the state of the streets. 'Dangerously' is an adverb used with action verbs or to modify adjectives (e.g., 'dangerously cold').

20. “fast” (b)

'Fast' has the same form as both an adjective and an adverb — there is no word 'fastly' in English. 'Act fast' (adverb) = take action quickly. 'A fast response' (adjective) = a quick response. 'Fastness' is a noun meaning 'the quality of being fast' or 'a stronghold'.