

Chapter 5 Enter Modifiers for Detail: Part 2—Adverbs

Additional paper or project ideas

1. You've learned a bit about flat adverbs such as "slow" in "drive slow." Watch these two short videos to learn a bit more about their history and use. What is your take on flat adverbs? Would you use them? Avoid them? Embrace them? Why? Develop this idea into a guidance handout for either teaching native speakers (i.e., children) or non-native speakers (i.e., English language learners—adults or children).
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7epnfcHy5SA>
 - <https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/education/grammar/do-all-adverbs-end-in-ly>
2. Review the two short articles on "literally," "hopefully," and "figuratively" below. Which of the author's perspective do you agree with? Do you have strong views about these words yourself? Do you know anyone in your life who has strong views about these words? What are they? How could you use what you've been learning to dispel those views?
 - Curzan, A. (2014). Literally vs. figuratively. *Michigan Today*.
<https://michigantoday.umich.edu/2014/01/15/literally-vs-figuratively/>
 - Eunson, B. (May 25, 2014). Hopefully, literally, begs the question: the three most annoying misuses in English. *The Conversation*.
<https://theconversation.com/hopefully-literally-begs-the-question-the-three-most-annoying-misuses-in-english-26595>
3. Project on descriptive/prescriptive grammar. Conduct a brief survey on people's beliefs about the use of the adverbs *hopefully* and *literally*. Have participants decide which sentence in each sentence pair below they like best.

Pair 1

- a. Rhys hopefully opened the letter from the university admissions office.
- b. Hopefully, Rhys and Taylor will get into their top universities.

Pair 2

- a. I literally peed my pants just now.
- b. I literally failed the test by one point.

Then, summarize your findings in a brief written report. Would descriptive and prescriptive grammarians have the same or different answer? How so?

4. Many adverbs are prone to getting shortened (Check out the portion on word formation processes from chapter 2!), such as *obvi* for *obviously* and *totes* for *totally*. Review your own text messages and social media posts as well as those of your friends to see if you shorten these adverbs, too. Do you shorten other adverbs as well? Which ones do you not

shorten? Is there a pattern regarding which words you do shorten and which ones you don't?