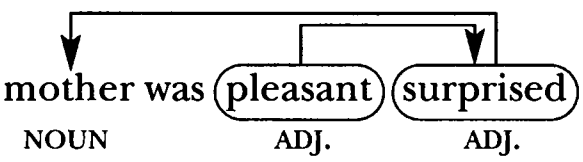
In the first example, the adverb *largely* is incorrect because the adjective *large* is needed to describe the noun *table.* In the second example, the adjective *quick* is incorrect because the adverb *quickly* is needed to describe the verb *talked.* In the last example, the adjective *extreme* is incorrect because the adverb *extremely* is needed to describe the adjective *long.*

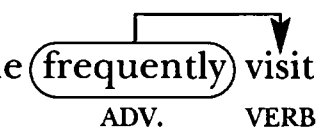
The following chart outlines the important information that you should remember about the basic use of adjectives and adverbs:

BASIC USE OF ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS	
ADJECTIVES	Adjectives describe *nouns* or *pronouns.*
ADVERBS	Adverbs describe *verbs, adjectives,* or other *adverbs.*

EXERCISE 46: Each of the following sentences has at least one adjective or adverb. Circle the adjectives and adverbs, and label them. Draw arrows to the words they describe. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).



I 1. The mother was pleasant surprised when her daughter came to visit.



C 2. The salespeople frequently visit the East Coast for trade shows.

____ 3. He was driving an expensively sports car.

____ 4. There is a special program on television this evening.

____ 5. She was chosen for the leading part because she sings so well.

____ 6. The car was not complete ready at 3:00.

____ 7. It was difficult to believe that what we read in the newspaper was a truly story.

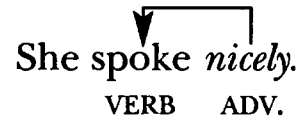
____ 8. Points will be subtracted for each incorrect answered question.

____ 9. The production manager quietly requested a completely report of the terribly incident.

____ 10. The children finished their homework quickly so that they could watch television.

SKILL 47: USE ADJECTIVES AFTER LINKING VERBS

Generally an adverb rather than an adjective will come directly after a verb because the adverb is describing the verb.



In this example, the verb *spoke* is followed by the adverb *nicely.* This adverb describes the verb *spoke.*

However, you must be very careful if the verb is a *linking* verb. A *linking* verb is followed by an adjective rather than an adverb.

She looks *nice.*
SUB. ADJ.

In this example, the linking verb *looks* is followed by the adjective *nice.* This adjective describes the subject *she.*

You should be sure to use an adjective rather than an adverb after a linking verb. Be careful, however, because the adjective that goes with the linking verb does not always directly follow the linking verb.

He seems *unusually nice.*
SUB. ADV. ADJ.

In this example, the adjective *nice,* which describes the subject *he,* is itself described by the adverb *unusually.* From this example, you should notice that it is possible to have an adverb directly after a linking verb, but only if the adverb describes an adjective that follows.

The following chart lists commonly used linking verbs and outlines the different uses of adjectives and adverbs after regular verbs and linking verbs:

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS AFTER VERBS			
(subject) + (regular verb) + (adverb) A regular verb is followed by an adverb. The adverb describes the verb.			
(subject) + (linking verb) + (adjective) A linking verb is followed by an adjective. The adjective describes the subject.			
(subject) + (linking verb) + (adverb) + (adjective) It is possible that a linking verb is followed by an adverb and an adjective. The adverb describes the adjective, and the adjective describes the subject.			
LINKING VERBS:	*appear*	*feel*	*seem*
	be	*look*	*smell*
	become	*prove*	*taste*

EXERCISE 47: Each of the following sentences contains at least one adjective or adverb. Circle the adjectives and adverbs, and label them. Draw arrows to the words they describe. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

I 1. The parents seem (angrily) about the child's report card.
ADV.

C 2. The speaker talked (knowingly) about (prehistoric) fossils.
ADV. ADJ.

____ 3. After she drank the lemonade, the cake tasted too sweetly to her.

_____ 4. Throughout dinner we were bored because he spoke incessantly.

_____ 5. Sam felt terribly depressed after the accident.

_____ 6. The neighbor appeared calm in spite of the fact that his house was on fire.

_____ 7. He looked quite unhappily at the thought of leaving his job.

_____ 8. Marla jumped up quick when she heard the gunshot.

_____ 9. Even though we were not really hungry, the food smelled delicious.

_____ 10. The history course that I took last semester proved more difficultly than I had expected.

SKILL 48: POSITION ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS CORRECTLY

Adjectives and adverbs can appear in incorrect positions in written expression questions on the TOEFL test. There are two common errors of this type that you should beware of: (1) the position of adjectives with the nouns they describe, and (2) the position of adverbs with objects.

In English it is correct to place a one-word adjective in front of the noun it describes. On the TOEFL test, however, an incorrect sentence might have an adjective after the noun it describes.

The information *important** is on the first page.
NOUN ADJ.

In this example, the adjective *important* should come before the noun *information* because *important* describes *information.*

A second problem you should be aware of is the position of adverbs with objects of verbs. When a verb has an object, an adverb describing the verb should not come between the verb and its object.

He has taken *recently** an English course.
ADV. OBJECT

This example is incorrect because the adverb *recently* comes between the verb *has taken* and its object *an English course.* There are many possible corrections for this sentence.

Recently he has taken an English course.
He has *recently* taken an English course.
He has taken an English course *recently.*

You can see from these examples that there are many possible correct positions for the adverb. What is important for you to remember is that an adverb that describes a verb cannot come between the verb and its object.