

## MODIFIERS

*“Adjectives are to be avoided unless they are strictly necessary; adverbs too, which is even more important. When I open a book and find that so and so has ‘answered sharply’ or ‘spoken tenderly,’ I shut it again: It’s the dialogue itself which should express the sharpness or the tenderness without any need to use adverbs to underline them.” Graham Greene*

**Question:** What are modifiers?

Modifiers are words or phrases that modify other words or phrases.

Some modifiers include adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases, and articles (“the,” “a,” and “an”).

**Question:** How do modifiers modify?

Modifiers give detail to other words, or describe them. They give us some new information about the word.

**Question:** What do modifiers modify?

Different types of modifiers modify different types of words. The following are two examples.

### Adjectives

- Adjectives modify nouns.
- i.e., brown, big, dark, white, slow

The <b>brown</b> cow walked.	“ <b>Brown</b> ” is an adjective because it modifies the noun (cow).
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### Adverbs

- **Adverbs** modify verbs.
- i.e., slowly, quickly, quietly
- note: often they end in -ly

The cow walked <b>quickly</b> .	“ <b>Quickly</b> ” is an adverb because it describes the way in which the verb (walk) occurs.
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Prepositional phrases also act as modifiers.