ADJECTIVES WITH LINKING VERBS

Forms of the verb **be** are always used as linking verbs. Other verbs such as **look, sound, appear, feel, smell, stay** and **grow** may be used as either action verbs followed by adverbs or as linking verbs followed by adjectives.

To decide whether a verb is used to link or to show action, try substituting a form of **be**. If the sentence still makes sense, the verb is a linking verb and is followed by an adjective or noun complement.

Cynthia seems rather (shy, shyly).

(**Cynthia is shyly** does not make sense; **Cynthia is shy** makes sense. "Seems" is a linking verb here.)

Cynthia looked (shy, shyly) at the mayor.

("Was" does not make sense with either modifier**;** "looked" is an action verb here.)

Choosing the Right Modifier. Underline the correct form in each of the sentences below.

1. Tom sounded (angry, angrily) when he spoke to me.
2. Under the heavy blanket I stayed (warm, warmly) all night.
3. The apple pie smells (good, well).
4. The musician sounded his trumpet (loud, loudly).
5. Mrs. Barnes works (good, well) with many people.
6. Bill looks (tired, tiredly) after his ordeal.
7. The peach ice cream tasted (good, well) on that hot night.
8. Have you played the game of smelling several substances (careful, carefully) and then identifying them?
9. The campers stayed (cozy, cozily) by the fire all night.
10. I've learned to identify fabrics blindfolded by feeling them (careful, carefully).
11. The little girl looked (cautious, cautiously) to the right and left.
12. Bob has a hot temper, but he never remains (angry, angrily) very long.
13. Karen tasted the hot chili (careful, carefully).
14. The children seem (restless, restlessly) today.
15. Ann seems (anxious, anxiously) about her grade on the test.
16. Don always seems (angry, angrily) when he's teased about his nickname.
17. After reading by the fire, Ken became very (sleepy, sleepily).
18. The robbery suspect seemed (uneasy, uneasily) when he was questioned.
19. Pam always remains (calm, calmly) under pressure.
20. I looked (uneasy, uneasily) at the judges.

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