



## Module Five

### Task: Avoid adverbs

Adverbs, like the passive voice, seem to have been created with the timid writer in mind. With the passive voice, the writer usually expresses fear of not being taken seriously; it's the voice of little boys wearing shoe polish moustaches and little girls clomping around in Mommy's high heels. With adverbs, the writer usually tells us he or she is afraid he/she isn't expressing himself/herself clearly, that he or she is not getting the point or picture across. [Stephen King, On Writing]

Adverbs are words or phrases that modify the meaning of verbs or adjectives. Classic ad-verbs are -ly words like: quickly, famously, happily. It can be tempting to use adverbs in speech attribution.

For example:

"I told you never to go there," shouted Mum, crossly. But try and avoid this temptation. You need to trust your reader that they 'get it' without over-explanation.

#### Exercise

Rewrite these sentences without using adverbs.

1. "We made it!" yelled Tammy, happily.
2. Tim ran quickly through the park.
3. Xi jumped excitedly.

Now, look at your story and see if you can remove all the adverbs.

