

NATIONAL ADVERB DAY

Skit 2

Characters: Punky, Meg, Hank

Punky: We still haven't come up with a slogan for National Adverb Day.

Meg: That's fine by me. What's so big about adverbs anyway? They're just words that describe verbs and end in -ly.

Punky: That's not true, Meg. First of all, not all adverbs end in -ly. For example, "fast." We say, "he runs fast." "Well" is another adverb that doesn't end in -ly. For example, "I did well." I hear too many people say, "I did good," which is incorrect.

Meg: Whatever. I wish I hadn't mentioned it.

Hank: I used to say "did more goodlier," but those days are over.

Meg: They'd better be.

Punky: And another thing, adverbs do more than describe verbs. They also describe adjectives. Take the adjective "good." If we want to describe how good, we need to use an adverb.

Hank: *Very* good.

Punky: Right. "Very" is another adverb that doesn't end in -ly.

Hank: *Real* good.

Punky: Not quite. If you can add -ly to a word and it sounds good to your ear, do it.

Hank: *Really* good.

Punky: Yup. That's it.

Hank: So I should never say, "This fried chicken is *real* good"?

Punky: You can say it, sure. If that's the way you are comfortable talking. But you should not write it in a formal paper, such as a school essay.

Meg: Who would write an essay about fried chicken?

Hank: I did. I also wrote one about cabbage.

Punky: Anyway, let's get back to adverbs. Adverbs can describe other adverbs, too. Give me an adverb.

Hank: How about "slowly."

Punky: The old dog walked incredibly slowly. See? How slowly? *Incredibly* slowly.

Meg: How about "incredibly boring"? Does that work?

Punky: Yes, because "boring" is an adjective. Adverbs describe adjectives, remember? "Incredibly boring" is correct.

Meg: Correct and accurate, in this situation.