

Adverbs

Adverbs in English often end with the letters –ly. The equivalent in Spanish is –mente. Making adverbs is a bit more complex than simple substitution of a few letters, however—even in English. For example:

<u>adjective</u>		<u>adverb</u>
easy	+ ly =	easily
facil	+ mente =	facilmente
rapid	+ ly =	rapidly
rapido	+ mente =	rapidamente

In the first example, the Spanish adjective fácil ends with a consonant, so you can just add “-mente”. In the second, however, since the adjective ends with a vowel (and the vowel is an “o”), you change it to an “a”, then add “-mente”. Examples:

paciente	+ mente =	paciente <u>mente</u>
lento	+ mente =	lenta <u>mente</u>

In other words, if the adverb ends with an “e”, you leave it alone. If it ends with “o”, you have to change it to an “a” before adding the suffix. Otherwise, just add “-mente”. That’s all there is to it!

There always seem to be exceptions to the rule. For example:

mal	+ mente =	mal <u>a</u> mente
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In this instance, the word “mal” is actually a noun mistaken for an adjective. It does not mean “evil” as in “He’s an evil man,” but “evil” as in “We should fight against evil.” The true adjective is “malo”, hence, the “o” changes to an “a” and we get “malamente”.

Quiz

Make up sentences that include the following adjectives as adverbs.

aparente	feliz	popular
estúpido	horrible	respetuosa
evidente	inteligente	simple
fea	maravillosa	tépido

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