

**Farly - the loss of adjectival adverbializing suffixes*

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Far is more often an adverb than an adjective (*throw it far* vs. *the far hills*) and “hard” is easy to find as an adjective, but in *work hard*, it is clearly an adverb, one of the ten or so monosyllabic Germanic ones which have lost the possibility of being followed by *-ly*.

Run quick(*ly*)
Talk low(**ly*)
Run hard(**ly*)
Write fast(**ly*)
Aim high(**ly*)/long(**ly*)
Walk far(**ly*)
Shoot straight(**ly*)
Spell it wrong is for real people, “spell it wrongly” is for pedants.
NOBODY says “spell it rightly.”
Dig deep(**ly*)
Write big(**ly*)/small(**ly*)
Swing wide(**ly*)
“Talk soft” sounds a bit hicky to me still, but I’m sure it will be
the President’s English before long. “Dress warm”
will take longer.

Slow(*ly*) are both possible, though when I was growing up, mavens
were inveighing against things like “drive slow.”

Somebody should write an (incredibly interesting) thesis on this problem, because the loss of adverbial *-ly* is something that happens in Spanish and Portuguese for *rapido* “fast”: (*vai comer rapido/rapidamente//lentamente/*lento/ devagar(*mente)* = Go eat quick//slowly). I think there may be others in Brazilian, but I can’t think of any now. Yes I can! *Bem* means “well,” (“in a good manner”), and ****bemmente* is a laugh. “*pessimo*” means “really bad,” and is an adjective in *uma torta pessima* [= a really awful pie], but it can appear with or without *-mente*: *O Haroldo toca pessimo/pessimamente* “H plays badly. I think in *Maira pulou alto* = M jumped high, *altamente* is impossible. Interestingly, *altamente*, like “highly,” means only “extremely,” not something like “extremely vertically” or “way uply”

In French, they have *vite(*ment)* “fast” [*une auto vite* “a fast car”/ *Jean court vite* “Jack runs fast.”] – I don’t know about any others.

In German, the process has gone to the max: there is no adverbializing suffix that would correspond to *-ly*. *Goethe schrieb schnell(***lich)* = Goethe wrote fast.