

# UNIT 5 Using the Right Modifier

## WRITING APPLICATION A: Choosing Between Good and Well

How *good* is your understanding of when to use *good* and *well* in sentences? *Good* is an adjective that modifies only nouns and pronouns. *Well* is used primarily as an adverb and answers the question *How*? The word *well*, however, can also be used as an adjective when it refers to health. To determine which word you should use in a sentence, first determine whether the word is functioning as an adverb or an adjective. If it is an adjective, you know to use *well* when referring to health and *good* when referring to anything else.

- EXAMPLES
1. Tony performed *well* in the spring athletic competition.
  2. The assistant manager is a *good* person to contact about those kinds of problems.
  3. She has not been feeling *well* all morning.
  4. That music score David played was quite *good*.

**Writing Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper, write a narrative about a time you left an event early because you were not feeling well. Explain what you thought of the event under those circumstances. Give yourself practice using *good* and *well* in your sentences. You will have the opportunity to revise your writing later.

**Evaluation Checklist:** Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- \_\_\_ I have used *good* and *well* correctly in my writing.
- \_\_\_ I have written my narrative in chronological order.
- \_\_\_ Each of my paragraphs includes a topic sentence and supporting sentences.

**Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version:** Revise your draft based on your evaluation. If you have found any instances in which you used *well* or *good* incorrectly, change the words now. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your revised draft in final form.

## WRITING APPLICATION B: Making Comparisons

Almost everyone strives to be best at something. Being best means being supreme over all others. In writing, the word *best* is the highest level of comparison that can be made. The word itself is an example of a third-degree comparison. *Better*, on the other hand, is an example of a second-degree comparison, which is used when only two things are being compared. *Good*, which is an example of a first-degree comparison, is really not used in making comparisons. All adjectives and adverbs have these three degrees that can be used in making comparisons.

## EXAMPLE

I always knew I was *good* at spelling, but I never thought I would be the best of all students in my school district. At the district spelling bee last year, I correctly spelled every word and won the district's *highest* award. Later that year, I participated in the state competition. Although I was a better speller than my closest competitor, I was no longer the best. I felt bad that I did not win for my school. However, I had tried *hard* to win and was grateful that I was not the *worst* speller in the state bee.

**Writing Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper, write about someone famous you believe is best or worst at something. Compare that person's skills or talents to those of other people in the same field.

**Evaluation Checklist:** Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- \_\_\_ I have used second-degree comparison when I compared two people or things.
- \_\_\_ I have used third-degree comparison when I compared more than two people or things.
- \_\_\_ I have included a topic sentence in each of my paragraphs.

**Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version:** Revise your draft based on your evaluation. The proofread your revised draft. Write your revised draft in final form.

## WRITING APPLICATION C: Avoiding Double Negatives

Few students would enjoy doing double the amount of homework every evening if doing only a normal amount was really necessary. Double homework for students is a little like double negatives in sentences. In sentences, one of the negative words is unnecessary and should be eliminated. You can correct sentences that have this error by removing one of the negative words or by making one of the words positive.

DOUBLE NEGATIVE Maria does *not* have *nobody* to go with her on that trip.

SOLUTION 1 Maria does *not* have *anybody* to go with her on that trip.

SOLUTION 2 Maria has *nobody* to go with her on that trip.

**Writing Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper, write about two or three things you do not have but need. Practice writing sentences that use negative words. You will have an opportunity to revise your writing later.

**Evaluation Checklist:** Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- \_\_\_ I have not used double negatives in my writing.
- \_\_\_ My writing follows a logical order.

**Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version:** Revise your draft based on your evaluation. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your draft in final form.