1.5 Adverbs (Continued)

When is a word an adjective, and when is it an adjective? Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns. Adverbs do not. Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adjectives do not.

Helen has a yearly membership at the local health club. (Yearly is an adjective since it modifies the noun membership and tells which membership.)

Helen contributes yearly. (Yearly is an adverb since it modifies the verb contributes and answers the question, When does Helen contribute?)

Mike arrived late. (Late is an adverb since it tells when Mike arrived.)

The late delivery cut down on sales in the supermarket. (Late is an adjective because it tells which delivery.)

**Writing Tip** Adverbs help readers visualize actions better. Select the precise adverb to help your reader see more clearly. Slowly might not be as accurate as gradually, leisurely, or unhurriedly. Use a dictionary or thesaurus for help.