“The road to hell is paved with adverbs.”
A good words (right order) e-book by Patrick E. McLean
Stephen King said:

“The road to hell is paved with adverbs.”

And since he’s demonstrated a great deal of professional competence with both words and hellish things, I’m inclined to agree with his opinion, but...
What, exactly, does that mean?
What does that mean, exactly?
Exactly what does that mean?

(Is there no getting rid of it?)
An adverb is any word that modifies a verb. Adverbs, especially the paving-stone-on-the-road-to-hell kind, make a habit of ending in ‘-ly.’
When they’re good, they are incredibly useful.

ADVERBS OF PLACE
Words that explain where something happens. “He carried the ball inside.” Adverbs of place include: here, there, inside, outside, everywhere, north.

ADVERBS OF QUESTION
Words that explain the nature of a question. “How is this helping?” how, why, when, where, who, what.

ADVERBS OF DEGREE
To what extent does something happen? almost, also, only, very, enough, rather, too.

ADVERBS OF TIME
Words that explain when something happens. “We went to breakfast after the show.” Adverbs of Time include: after, before, since, already, soon, then, now.

ADVERBS OF NUMBER
Words that explain how often something happens. They include: always, never, seldom, frequently, once, twice, often.

ADVERBS OF AFFIRMATION OR DENIAL
“Yes, this page is getting a little dull.” yes, no, not, certainly, maybe, probably, perhaps.
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“Yes, this page is getting a little dull.” yes, no, not, certainly, maybe, probably, perhaps.
But they can quickly become the paving stones on the road to hell.

**THE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY EVIL ADVERBS OF MANNER**

Words that explain how something happens. “He quickly ran inside.” Adverbs of manner are the ones that end in ‘-ly.’ While it’s almost always better to do without an adverb if you can, adverbs of manner are almost universally bad.
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(adverb)
“The road to hell is { clearly } paved with adverbs.”
There is no word you can place between these brackets that will not weaken the sentence. In fact, it’s hard to see how the addition of any word would help this sentence do its work.
The road to hell has been surfaced with a mixture of roofing tar and recycled adverbs.
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The road to hell has been re-surfaced countless times with the finest mixture of roofing tar, recycled adverbs and the toenail clippings of famous grammarians who are now deceased.
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The road to hell has been re-surfaced countless times with the finest mixture of roofing tar, recycled adverbs and the toenail clippings of famous grammarians who are now deceased. There is simply no limit to the number of words you can cram into a defenseless sentence.
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A long time ago, before air quality sensors and the SPCA, miners used to carry canaries into the mines with them when they worked. As it happens, canaries are very sensitive to poisonous gases. So if the canary died, the passing of the unfortunate bird served as a warning that the air might be bad.

Now I’m not saying that every time you use a word ending in ‘-ly’ that God kills a canary. (That’s what I believe, but it’s not polite to talk about religion.) I’m suggesting that when you come across an adverb, you could think to yourself, “Hunh, look at that. It’s a dead canary. Maybe I should check the quality of the writing around here.”
A big part of the difference between being a good writer and being a bad writer is the attention you pay to adverbs.
The camel died quite suddenly on the second day, and Selena fretted sulkily and, buffing her already impeccable nails – not for the first time since the journey began – pondered snidely if this would dissolve into a vignette of minor inconveniences like all the other holidays spent with Basil.
There are a lot of problems with that piece of writing. After all, it’s not just bad, it’s award-winningly bad, but upon closer inspection…
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(A somewhat humorous, hyphenated adverb)
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If you cross out all the adverbs and clean it up...
The camel died on the second day. “Delightful,” thought Selena, “another holiday with Basil.”
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The camel died quite suddenly on the second day, and Selena fretted sulkily and, buffing her already impeccable nails – not for the first time since the journey began – pondered snidely if this would dissolve into a vignette of minor inconveniences like all the other holidays spent with Basil.
What the does that even mean?
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Most of the time, when we use an adverb of manner it’s because we’ve chosen the wrong verb. If you use the right verb, you don’t need to use any of those nasty little words that end in ‘-ly.’
Ran Quickly – Sprinted
Ran Away – Fled
Ran Slowly – Walked
Ran Awkwardly – Stumbled
Said quietly – Whispered
Said loudly – Yelled
Said huskily – Breathed
Said dryly – Rasped
Really Liked – Loved
Really Liked – Admired
Really Liked – Adored
Really Liked – Lusted
Laughed Madly – Cackled
Played Loudly – Blared
Thought Intensely – Concentrated
Breathed Deeply – Sighed
But you don’t really need to remember a lot of grammar concerning adverbs. There is one simple rule that covers the use of adverbs, as well all other kinds of words.
Omit Needless Words

Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.

William Strunk from “The Elements of Style”
About the Author

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(And this one.)

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(Go ahead, send it to everybody you know.)
This work is made available under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share-Alike Attribution license.

(Wouldn’t this be better if it was ‘provided’ instead of made available?)

(Go ahead, send it to everybody you know.)
(No really, it’s over. Go read something else.)