

Grammar Exercises Set 4: Adjective, Adverbs
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Instructions: identify the underlined word as an adjective or adverb; state the type of adjective or adverb.

The president of Harvard University prompted criticism for suggesting that innate differences between the sexes could help explain why fewer women succeed in science and math careers.

Lawrence H. Summers, speaking Friday at an economic conference, also questioned how great a role discrimination plays in keeping female scientists and engineers from advancing at elite universities.

The remarks prompted Massachusetts Institute of Technology biologist Nancy Hopkins a Harvard graduate to walk out on Summers' talk, The Boston Globe reported.

In a statement released Monday night, Summers said his remarks were misconstrued as suggesting that women lack the ability to succeed at the highest levels of math and science.

"I did not say that, nor do I believe it," he said.

Summers said he is deeply committed "to the advancement of women in science."

Five other participants in the National Bureau of Economic Research conference, including Denise D. Denton, chancellor designate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, also said they were offended by the comments. Four other attendees contacted afterward by the Globe said they were not.

Summers said the comments were made "in the spirit of academic inquiry" and his goal was to underscore the need for further research to understand a situation that is likely due to a variety of factors.

Conference organizers said Summers was asked to be provocative, and that he was invited as a top economist, not as a Harvard official.

The two-day, invitation-only conference of the Cambridge-based National Bureau of Economic Research drew about 50 economists from around the country to discuss women and minorities in science and engineering.

Summers declined to provide a tape or transcript of his remarks, but he did describe comments to the Globe similar to what participants recalled.

Summers already faced criticism because the number of senior job offers to women has dropped each year of his three-year presidency. He has promised to work on the problem.

("Harvard President Criticized for Remarks," Associated Press, abcnews.go.com/us/wire,
January 17, 2005)