



Discovering Logosland

By Wayne Visser

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Creating Things Is Easy

That was close! And exciting! Can creating things really be that easy? said Jordan, sitting in a fork of the tree and still panting.

It's easy when you know how. But do you know how you created that dinosaur and this tree?

I used lots of words ... to describe them.

True. But not just any words. Let's look at some of those words you used again. What word did you start with?

Dinosaur.

Good. And what kind of word do you think *dinosaur* is?

It's a thing-word.

Bravo! It's a word that identifies a thing, or points out an object. (Boring adults call them nouns). You can think of it like drawing the outline of a shape in pencil on a page, without knowing exactly what it is yet. But that was not enough to create your dinosaur. What words did you use then?

Big, scary, scaly, drooling, hungry, green and fearsome.

And what kind of words are they?

I don't know. They tell me more about the dinosaur, so it's easier to picture him.

Yes. They are describing words, or adjectives. They are like the colour and shading you would use to make your pencil drawing more interesting. And when you used them, that's when the dinosaur appeared. What happened next?

It started to chase us!

And what sort of word is *chase*?

It's an action word.

Precisely. We call them verbs, and it's these action words that bring our picture to life. They make the difference between a colourful drawing, and a movie (or a motion picture, as they used to call them). Now, just one more thing. When I told you to use your magic, what else did I say?

You said, *quickly*!





And what difference did that make?

It told me how to do the magic. So, is it a word that describes an action word?

You've got it in one! It's like a cross between an adjective and a verb, so we call it an adverb. Those are the four magic ingredients of creation, so let's cast a few spells!



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