Good advice on the use of “good” vs. “well”

*Good* and *well* are often confused. Generally speaking, *good* is an adjective that modifies a noun, whereas *well* is an adverb that modifies a verb.¹

**Examples:**
- The teacher had a good idea which student had thrown the paper airplane.
- Franny speaks Mandarin well.
- The experiment progressed well over the course of the day; we were pleased with the good results.
- Although Mark had always done well in chemistry, he found physics challenging.

When speaking of good health, both *good* and *well* may be used as predicate adjectives with *feel*. In this context, *good* may indicate a good mood in addition to good health.²

**Examples:**
- The patient felt well after the procedure.
- I felt good after going canoeing.
*Good* should not be substituted for *well* in formal writing, although it’s sometimes used as an adverb in informal speech.³

**Example:**

At follow-up, when we asked the patient whether he had any lingering symptoms, he responded, “No, I’m good.”

**References**

1. Grammarly.com. Good vs. well—How should I use them? Accessed December 21, 2022. [https://www.grammarly.com/blog/good-well/#:~:text=The%20rule%20of%20thumb%20is,be%20used%20as%20an%20adjective.](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/good-well/#:~:text=The%20rule%20of%20thumb%20is,be%20used%20as%20an%20adjective.)

--Laura Russell

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