TOM SWIFTIES

Edward Stratemeyer created the character, Tom Swift. In his books about Tom Swift and Tom’s companions, Stratemeyer often used adverbs to describe various actions. Thus, words such as wisely, quickly, or innocently were common in Stratemeyer’s books. Today a sentence such as, “The kittens are beautiful,” said Tom literally, is called a Tom Swiftie since kittens and literally (a litter of kittens) are a play on words. Match the sentences with the adverbs that correctly complete the Tom Swifties.

1. “I want to get the ten pin,” the bowler said _______.
2. “I’d like to land on the prairie,” the pilot said _______.
3. “I’ll need more gas,” the anesthesiologist said _______.
4. “Please be quiet in this study room,” the librarian said _______.
5. “I’ll answer that,” the debater said _______.
6. “Please hand me the brushes,” the painter said _______.
7. “I could use more sugar,” the baker said _______.
8. “Anything I can do for you, boss?” the assistant asked _______.
9. “I can do it myself,” the electrician responded _______.
10. “I’ll help all the people in our parish,” the priest said _______.
11. “You will need to see me again very soon,” the chiropractor said _______.
12. “I don’t need your snide remarks,” the battery salesman answered _______.
13. “I will find that missing student soon,” the attendance officer said _______.
14. “This is the best play I’ve ever seen,” the drama critic remarked _______.
15. “We don’t need any more war,” the peace marchers chanted _______.

a. absentmindedly  i. painlessly  
b. affirmatively  j. plainly  
c. bookishly  k. religiously  
d. caustically  l. shortly  
e. colorfully  m. sparingly  
f. disarmingly  n. sweetly  
g. disjointedly  o. theatrically  
h. helpfully