

ADVERBS

1. What is an Adverb?

By definition, an adverb is a word or a group of words that suggests the idea of adding to the meaning of a verb. Interestingly, adverbs can tell us something about the action in a sentence by modifying the verb and by telling us how, when, where, how often, to what extent ...etc something happens, or how, when, where...etc somebody does something.

- I opened the door quietly.
- We arrived at the airport at 7 o'clock.
- Paul often wears a black hat.
- I rather like swimming.

However, adverbs can also modify:

- Adjectives: eg. very good, too patient
- Other adverbs: eg. very soon, quite quickly, extremely clearly
- Prepositional phrases: eg. You are entirely in the wrong.
- A whole sentence: eg. Strangely, I won the first prize.
- Nouns: The man **over there** is a doctor.
- Past participles: Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident.

➤ Adverbs are often formed from adjectives by the addition of -ly.

adjective + -ly → adverb

<i>adjective</i>	bad	sudden	careful	heavy	quiet	nervous
<i>adverb</i>	badly	suddenly	carefully	heavily	quietly	nervously

➤ Yet, there are certain adverbs that are not formed as such.

- *Here, there, fast, often, then, furthermore, however...*etc

➤ Adverbs are not always essential to the meaning of the sentence.

Compare:

- Peter has left. and Peter has just left.
- The train stopped. and The train stopped suddenly.

Sometimes adverbs are essential to complete the sentence.

- *I live.
- I live in London.

Note: - the words *hard, fast, late, early* are adjectives and adverbs.

<p><i>Adjective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John's job is very hard. - Ben is a fast runner. - The bus was late/early. 	<p><i>Adverb</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John works very hard. - Ben can run fast. - I went to bed late/early.
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2 Types of Adverbs

2.1 Adverbs of Manner

An adverb of manner tells us how something happens or how somebody does something.

- It is raining *heavily*.
- I understand you *perfectly*.

Compare:

<p>Adjective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sue is very <i>quiet</i>. 	<p>Adverb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sue speaks very <i>quietly</i>.
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- Be <i>careful</i> . - It was a <i>bad</i> game. - I feel <i>nervous</i> .	- Listen <i>carefully</i> ! - Our team played <i>badly</i> . - I waited <i>nervously</i> .
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Note:

good and well

Good is an adjective. The adverb is **well**:

- Your English is *good*. but You speak English *well*.
- Sophie is a *good* pianist. but Sophie plays the piano *well*.

2.1.1 Position of Adverbs of manner

Adverbs of manner occur after the object or after the verb.

- Some companies pay their workers *badly*.
- He was driving *dangerously*.

It is important not to put the adverb of manner between the verb and its object.

- *She speaks well German.
- She speaks German well.

If we want to emphasize the subject of a verb, we can put the adverb after the subject.

- Gillian *angrily* slammed the door.

Sometimes in narration, adverbs of manner are put at the beginning of the sentence to create suspense or dramatic effect.

- Lila held her breath and stood. *Suddenly*, she saw it: a big black thing moving towards her.

2.2 Adverbs of Place

An adverb of place tells us where something happens or where somebody does something.

The idea of place covers location and direction.

- Mary is in Jamaica. → location
- Mary flew to Jamaica. → direction

2.2.1 Position of Adverbs of Place

Adverbs of place never go between the subject and the verb; they are placed after verbs or objects.

- I met my supervisor *at university*.
- They live *in Canada*.

Adverbs of place are placed after adverbs of manner but before adverbs of time.

- Judy read quietly **in the library** yesterday.
- The child played happily **in the field**.
- Liz walks **to work** every day.
- I usually go **to bed** early.

Adverbs of place can begin a sentence when we have more than one adverb of place.

- On many large farms, farm workers live **in cottages**.

If we have more than one adverb of place, smaller places are mentioned before larger places.

- She lives **in a small house in a village in Oum El Boughi**.

2.3 Adverbs of time

An adverb of time tells us when something happens or when somebody does something.

Adverbs of time can refer to definite time, indefinite time, or duration.

2.3.1 Adverbs of Definite Time

Some of these adverbs include *today, tomorrow, yesterday, in July, at 5 o'clock, last week, next week, at night, last August, next Monday...etc.*

2.3.1.1 Position of Adverbs of Definite Time

They usually occur at the end or at the beginning of sentences

- I can't sleep *at night*.
- *At night* I can't sleep.
- The garden is lovely *in spring*.

If there are more than one adverb of time, we progress from particular to general, i.e; time, day, date, and year.

- Thomas was born *at 11:50 on Monday, November 11th 1982.*

2.3.2 Adverbs of Indefinite Time

Some of these adverbs include: *already, another time, another day, just, late, early, still, recently, then, these days, yet, soon...etc.*

2.3.2.1 Position of Adverbs of Indefinite Time

Adverbs of indefinite time can occur at the beginning or at the end of sentences; they can also occur before the verb in order to focus interest.

- I went to Algiers *recently*.

- I *recently* went to Algiers.

In the next section some adverbs of indefinite time are tackled with further details, namely *still, already, yet, and just*.

Still: When referring to time, it emphasizes continuity, i.e; it indicates that something is the same as before. Its position is the same as adverbs of frequency.

- I ate much food, but I am *still* hungry.

- He *still* works to help his family.

- 'Did you sell your car?' 'No, I've *still* got it.'

- Do you *still* live in Paris?

Already: It implies earlier than expected. Note that already is generally used in affirmative statements, with perfect tenses. Its position is the same as adverbs of frequency.

- What time is John arriving? He is *already* here. (= earlier than we expected)

- I'm going to tell you what happened. That's not necessary; I *already* know.

- Ann doesn't want to go to the cinema. She has *already* seen the film.

Yet: It implies until now. It is used in negative sentences and in questions. Yet often occurs at the end of a sentence.

- A: Where's Diane?

B: She isn't here *yet*. (= she will be here, but until now she hasn't come)

- A: What are you going this evening?

B: I don't know *yet*. (= I will know, but until now I don't know)

- A: Are you ready?

B: Not *yet*. Wait a moment. (= I shall be ready, but I'm not ready at the moment)

Compare **yet** and **still**:

- She hasn't gone **yet**. = She is still here.

- I haven't finished eating **yet**. = I'm still eating.

Just: It is used with perfect tenses to mean during a very short period before now or before then.

- She has **just** gone out.

- At that moment, they had **just** finished reading.

2.3.3. Adverbs of Duration

Some of these adverbs include *ago, during, for, since, from...to, from...until, until*.

- I met him six weeks *ago*.

- We didn't speak *during the meal*.

From...to

- We lived in Canada *from 1982 to 1990*.

- I work *from Monday to Friday*.

Note: We can also say **from...until**

- We lived in Canada *from 1982 until 1990*.

Until + the end of a period

- They are going away tomorrow. They'll be away *until Friday*.
- I went to bed early, but I wasn't tired; I read a book *until 3 o'clock*.
- Wait here *until I come*.

Note: We can say till (= until)

- Wait here *till I come*.

Compare:

- "How long will you be away?" "**Until Monday.**"
- "When are you coming back?" "**On Monday.**"

Since + a time in the past (to now)

Since is used after the present perfect (**has been/ has done...**etc)

- Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have been married *since 1968*. (from 1968 to now)
- I haven't seen you *since Monday*. (= from Monday until now)
- It has been raining *since I arrived*. (= from the time I arrived until now)

Compare:

- We lived in Canada *from 1982 to 1990*.
- We lived in Canada *until 1990*.
- Now we live in France. We came to France *in 1990*.
- We have lived in France *since 1990*. (= from 1990 until now)

For + a period of time

- They have been married for ten years.
- I'm going away for three days.

2.4 Adverbs of Frequency

Adverbs of frequency tell us how often something happens or how often somebody does something.

They are of two types: adverbs of indefinite frequency and adverbs of definite frequency.

2.4.1 Adverbs of Definite Frequency

They include *once/twice/several time(s) a day/a week, hourly, daily, weekly, every day, every month...etc*. They can occur at the beginning or at the end of a sentence.

- Bill watches TV for two hours every evening.
- Every week I visit my mother's tomb.

2.4.2 Adverbs of Indefinite Frequency

They include always, usually, often, sometimes, never, rarely, seldom, occasionally, generally... etc.

2.4.2.1 Position of Adverbs of Indefinite Frequency

1. They go before the verb.

- I *always* go to work by car.
- Ann *often* plays tennis.
- You *usually* look unhappy.
- We *rarely* (or seldom) watch television.

2. They go after the verb to be i.e; after is/am/are/was/were

- He is *never* ill.
- It is *often* very cold here in winter.

3. They go between the auxiliary and the verb.

- I will *always* remember you.
- It doesn't *often* rain here.
- Do you *usually* go to work by car?

2.5 Adverbs of Degree

Adverbs of degree tell us to what extent something happens or to what extent somebody does something. Some adverbs of degree are: *quite, rather, enough, fairly, hardly, somewhat ...* etc. Most of these adverbs go before the word they modify; this word can be:

Adjective: *quite* good

Adverb: *quite* quickly

Verb: I *quite* like it.

Noun/Noun Phrase: It is *quite* an experience.

Adverbs of degree change the meaning of the sentence by weakening or limiting the effect of the word they modify. Note that adverbs of degree can all mean *not very* or *to a certain extent*.

- The experiment was **successful**. (100)
- The experiment was *fairly* **successful**. (70)
- She is *rather* **nice**.
- I am very tired; I can *hardly* stand up.
- "How was the film?" "Oh, it was *fairly* good. I've seen better."

Note: The two meanings of 'quite':

1. Quite can make the word it modifies weaker or stronger, and its effect depends on stress and intonation.

If we say:

- The film was **quite good!** and our voice 'goes up', this means 'I enjoyed it on the whole'.
- The film was **quite good!** and our voice 'goes down' this means 'I didn't really enjoy it'.

We can put 'quite' in front of ordinary adjectives (quite good), adverbs (quite slowly), and a few verbs (I quite enjoy). Regardless of stress, the meaning is 'less than'.

2. We can also use 'quite' with 'absolute' adjectives (dead, empty, and full), and with strong adjectives like amazing, and wonderful. Then, it means 'completely'. The voice goes up.

- The man was **quite dead!** The bucket is **quite full!** The film was **quite wonderful!**

2.6 Intensifiers (≠ adverbs of degree)

They include *very, too, so, extremely, really, truly, greatly, absolutely, thoroughly, and terribly*. Intensifiers often go before the word they modify; this word may be:

Adjective: She is **very** slow.

Adverb: she walks **very** slowly.

Verb: I **entirely** agree.

Intensifiers intensify or strengthen the meaning of the word they modify.

- He sat there *so* quietly.
- I'm *terribly* sorry.
- He behaved *extremely* badly.

Note: *Jolly, simply, and dead* can be used as intensifiers.

- She is a *jolly* good player. (= an extremely good player)
- His pronunciation is *simply* terrible. (= very terrible)
- You are *dead* right. (= you're extremely right)

2.7 Focus Adverbs

Adverbs like *even, just, only, indeed* can be used to focus attention emphasize something.

- She has travelled everywhere; she has *even* travelled to Alaska.
- You need *just* to revise your lessons to pass the examination.
- Put it *just* here.
- The sauce tastes just right.
- *Only* my mother understands me.
- 'Did he complain?' 'He did *indeed*. / *Indeed* he did'
- That's *indeed* remarkable.

Even and **only** can convey different meanings depending on where they are placed in the sentence.

Compare:

- **Even** Thomas knows that 2 and 2 make 4. →Despite his stupidity, he knows that 2 and 2 make 4.

- Thomas **even** knows that 2 and 2 make 4. →Among the things he knows, he knows that 2 and 2 make 4.

- **Only** Lila knows the answer. →Lila is the only one who knows the answer.

- Lila **only** knows the answer. →She does not know other things.

2.8 Adverbs Used as Connectives

Several adverbs are used to present information in a coherent way, i.e; to connect the different sentences of speech or writing according to particular relationships. These adverbs may express:

- Sequence: First, firstly, second, secondly, third, thirdly, next, then...etc.
- Opposition: however, nevertheless, still, though, in contrast ...etc.
- Addition: too, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition, besides, further, as well, additionally ...etc.
- Cause and Effect: therefore, consequently, as a consequence, thus, as a result, hence ...etc.
- Emphasis: in fact, indeed, certainly, of course ...etc.
- Example or Illustration: for example, for instance, namely ...etc.
- Conclusion or Summary: finally, in a word, in brief, in conclusion, in the end, in summary ...etc.

Note: Many of the above adverbs are conjunctive adverbs; they connect clauses in compound sentences and even in compound-complex sentences.

Read the following paragraphs:

Living in an apartment has many advantages. **Firstly**, students can choose to live in a quiet neighbourhood. A quiet neighbourhood is conducive to studying. Away from the distractions of campus life, students can be more serious about their studies. **Secondly**, apartment life allows students to be more independent. **For example**, they can cook whatever they want to eat and have their meals whenever they want them. **Thirdly**, students can often find apartments that are cheaper than the fee for room and board in a dormitory.

However, living in an apartment also has disadvantages. Being away from campus life can make students feel isolated. Another disadvantage is that apartments close to campus are usually expensive, and those farther away are not within walking distance. **Therefore**, transportation must be considered. **Finally**, students who live in apartments must cook their own meals, shop for food, perhaps carry their clothes to a self-service laundry, and clean their entire apartment—not just their room.

Exercises

1. Which is right ?

1. Don't eat so quick/ quickly. It's not good for you.
2. Why are you angry/ angrily? I haven't done anything.
3. Can you speak slow/slowly, please?
4. Come on Dave! Why are you always so slow/slowly?
5. Bill is a very careful/ carefully driver.
6. Jane is studying hard/hardly for her examination.
7. Where's Diane? She was here, but she left sudden/suddenly.
8. Please be quiet/quietly. I'm studying.
9. Those oranges look nice/nicely. Can I have one?

2. Put in good or well.

1. Jackie did very in her exams.
2. The party was very I enjoyed it very much.
3. Martin has a difficult job, but he does it
4. How are your parents? Are they
5. Did you have a holiday? Was the weather

3. Correct the sentences that are wrong.

1. Did you watch all evening television?
.....
2. Lila reads a newspaper every day.
.....
3. Tom started last week his new job.
.....
4. I want to speak fluently English.
.....
5. I drink every afternoon three cups of coffee.
.....
6. She waited for the train to arrive impatiently.
.....
7. They burst out laughing suddenly widely.
.....
8. She answered in a lower whisper me.
.....
9. I explained carefully the problem.
.....
10. Ann doesn't speak very well French.
.....
11. I did yesterday a lot of work.
.....
12. We met at the airport some friends.
.....

4. Put the words in the correct order

1. At the hotel/ I / early / arrived
.....
2. Goes/ every year / to Italy / Julia
.....
3. We / since 1688 / here / have lived
.....
4. In London/ Sue / in 1960 / was born
.....
5. To the bank / yesterday afternoon / went / Ann
.....
6. I / in bed / this morning / my breakfast / had
.....
7. In October / Barbara / to university/ is going
.....
8. To the cinema / tomorrow evening / are you going?
.....

5. Write sentences using *still* and *yet*. Look at the example carefully

- (before) They were waiting for the bus
- (still) They are still waiting for the bus.
- (yet) The bus hasn't come yet.
- 1.(before) He was looking for a job.
 (still)
- (yet)
- 1. (before) she was sleeping.
 (still)
- (yet)
- 2. (before) They were having dinner.
 (still)
- (yet)

6. Complete the sentences. Use *already*.

1. Does Ann want to see the film? No, she it.
2. I must see Julia before she goes. It's too late. She
3. Shall I pay the bill? No, it's OK. I.....
4. Shall I tell Paul about the meeting? No, he I told him.

7. Put in *until/ since/ for*

1. I was tired this morning; I stayed in bed 10 o'clock.
2. We waited for Sue half an hour, but she did not come.
3. 'Have you just arrived?' 'No, I've been here half past seven.'
4. 'How long did you stay at the party last night?' '..... midnight.'
5. I'm tired; I'm going to lay down a few minutes.
6. Jack has gone away; he'll be away Wednesday.
7. How long have you known Ann? we were at school together.
8. I usually finish work at 5, but sometimes I work six.
9. Where have you been? I've been waiting for you twenty minutes.
10. Don't open the door of the train the train stops.
11. Next week I'm going to Tunisia three days.

8. Write these sentences with the words in brackets.

1. My brother speaks to me. (never)
2. Susan is polite. (always)
3. I finish work at 5 o'clock. (usually)
4. I go to bed before midnight. (rarely)
5. I don't eat fish. (often)
6. Do you work in the same place? (still)
7. Is Tina here? (already)
8. I can remember his name. (never)
9. Jill has started a new job. (just)

9. Indicate differences in meaning between the following pairs of sentences.

1. A) I am certain.

 B) I am fairly certain.

2. A) I enjoy cooking.

 B) I rather enjoy cooking.

.....
3. A) I am sorry for the delay.

.....
B) I am extremely sorry for the delay.

.....
4. A) She behaved courageously.

.....
B) She behaved so courageously.

.....
5. A) Even a child can understand it.

.....
B) A child can even understand it.

.....
6. A) I only saw Mary.

.....
B) I saw only Mary/ Mary only.
.....

10. Define the nature and the function of the underlined words and expressions.

1. Do you often go to restaurants?
2. I have already seen the film.
3. They have lived in the same house for 20 years.
4. He sings very badly.
5. She can run very fast.
6. Do you still live in Barcelona?
7. The president's speech about the U.N.O was presented in the news yesterday.
8. I shall see her at noon.
9. I understand you perfectly.

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