

ADVERBS

- changeable parts of speech (comparison)
- open class

Functions of Adverbs

- modifiers of verbs or clauses
- modifiers of adjectives or other adverbs or adverbial phrases (*very, well, quickly*).
- they typically express relations of place, time, manner, attendant circumstance, degree, cause, inference, result, condition, exception, concession, purpose, or means.

Form of Adverbs

- single words / adverbial phrases
- usually formed from adjectives by means of the ending **-ly** (sometimes **-ably**)
- some adverbs have the same form and pronunciation as other parts of speech (adjectives – *fast, pretty, early, straight*; prepositions – *up, about, around*)
- some adverbs have two forms – one which is the same as that of the adjective and the other ending in **-ly**: right/rightly, short/shortly, high/highly, pretty/prettily

Kinds of Adverbs

- **manner** (*boldly, dangerously, fast, hard, quickly, usually, well*)
- **place** (*by, behind, here, left, near, over, there, upstairs*)
- **time** (*next, now, punctually, soon, tomorrow,*)
- **frequency** (*always, frequently, never, occasionally, once, repeatedly*)
- **degree** (*fairly, hardly, pretty, quite, too, very*)
- **sentence** (*actually, , admittedly, definitely, luckily, surely*)
- **interrogative** (*why? when? where?*)
- **relative** (*why, when, where*)

NOTE: Some adverbs fall into more than one categories, depending on the context and on their position within the sentence, e.g.:

- around (place – *He was arrested while sneaking around.*
intensifier (time) – *The policeman asked him where he was around ten.*)
- aside (place – *The fire brigade pulled the wracked car aside.*
quantity – *The suspect had a clean record aside from some traffic offenses.*)
etc.

Comparison of adverbs

COMPARABLE ADVERBS

- regular
- irregular
- short
- long

INCOMPARABLE ADVERBS

(*back, chiefly, mostly, nearly, pretty, shortly...*)

REGULAR COMPARISON		IRREGULAR COMPARISON
SHORT (monosyllabic adverbs + <i>hard</i> and <i>early</i>)	LONG (adverbs with two or more syllables)	
fast – faster – fastest close – closer – closest long – longer – longest hard – harder – hardest early – earlier – earliest	recently – more recently – most recently readily – more readily – most readily cordially – more cordially – most cordially	badly – worse – worst far – farther – farthest (distance) far – further – furthest (general) little – less – least much – more – most well – better – best

Use of Comparative Forms

as / so ... as: *He spoke as loudly as he could.*

The car thief was teasing the police so much as he dared.

the + comparative ... the + comparative: The longer you run the harder you'll be punished.

Use of Superlative

- usually in the construction of *of + noun*: *He drove fastest of them all.*

NOTE: In such constructions, the nominal part following the superlative can be omitted:

He drove fastest.

Position of Adverbs

Adverbs of manner (*foolishly, hard, kindly, nice, stupidly, ...*)

- follow the verb *He spoke clearly.*
- or the object if there is one *He pulled the gun unexpectedly.*

NOTES:

- the adverb can not be put between the verb and the object
- if the object contains many words, the adverb should be put before the verb
- with prepositional objects, the adverb can be put either before the preposition or after the object
- the adverb is considered to modify the verb of the phrase/clause which it follows
- sometimes the position of the adverbial changes the meaning of the sentence, e.g.:
He cunningly decided to trick his partner. / He decided to trick his partner cunningly.

- Adverbs of Place (*anywhere, away, here, there, upward(s), ...*)

- follow the verb
- if there is an object (incl. prepositional), then they follow the object
- *here* and *there* can be used in initial position followed by **be/come/go** + noun subject or by a pronominal subject + **be/come/go**.
Here/There goes our prime suspect. BUT: Here he comes. There she goes.
- *away, down, up, over, off, out, round, etc.* can be followed by verb of motion + subject
Off sails the ship. Up moves the elevator. Round and round ran the athletes.

BUT: *Off **it** sails. Up **it** moves. Round and round **they** ran.*

- in written English adverb phrases introduced by prepositions can be used in front of verbs of position and motion (and sometimes in front of other verbs):
In the courtroom sat the accused and his lawyer.
From the gallows hung the assassin's dead body.
Down the hall walked the doomed men.
- most such constructions can be replaced by a construction **participle + be**
Sitting in the courtroom were the accused and his lawyer.
Hanging from the gallows was the assassin's dead body.
*Walking down the hall were the doomed men.**

*This could actually be used only if the action were repeated or if it took a long time.

Adverbs of Time (*afterwards, before, ever, lately, never, soon, tomorrow, yet, ...*)

- occupy either the initial or final position in the clause (end position is usual with imperatives and with phrases with *till*)
Eventually, the judge sentenced the accused. / The judge sentenced the accused eventually.
The reading of the verdict has been postponed till tomorrow.
- (**ever**) **since** are used with perfect tenses
He has not slept a second since his arrest.
- **yet** follows the verb / verb + object
He hasn't spoken yet. / He hasn't said a word yet.
- **still** follows the verb **be** but is put in front of other verbs
Most members of the "Manson family" are still in prison.
In spite of hard evidence, the accused still denied his guilt.
- **just** as an adverb of time* is used with compound tenses
He has just opened the door.
She was just picking up the phone.

* It can also be used as adverb of degree
He just wanted some peace

Adverbs of Frequency (*always, frequently, often, usually, ever, hardly ever, ...*)

- follow the verb **be** in simple tenses
He is always in trouble.

- come before simple tenses of all other verbs

They constantly disobey the regulations.

- in compound tenses follow the first auxiliary verb

This lawyer has scarcely ever lost a case.

but in questions follow the auxiliary verb + subject

Have you ever been arrested?

Adverbs of Degree (*absolutely, barely, completely, enough, quite, entirely, thoroughly, ...*)

- modify adjectives or other adverbs

This is quite right. / He behaved absolutely foolishly.

- **enough** follows the adjective or adverb it modifies

This answer was not good enough. / He didn't answer fast enough.

- some of the degree adverbs can also modify verbs (almost, hardly, enough, just, (a) little, much, nearly, quite, rather, really, scarcely)

He nearly drowned.

- **just** as a qualifier precedes the word(s) it refers to

I had just enough money for one phone call.

I just had enough money for one phone call.

I had enough money for just one phone call.

etc.

Order of Adverbs (Adverb Phrases) of Manner, Place and Time in the Same Sentence

- manner before place (usually)

He sat proudly on the throne.

BUT: away, back, down, forward, home, in, off, on, out, round and up are usually put in front of adverbials of manner

She turned back angrily.

- time follows manner and place

The judge had a very busy day today.

Or occupies the initial position

Today the judge had a very busy day.

Sentence Adverbs (*actually, apparently, certainly, clearly, obviously, probably, surely*)

- modify the whole sentence/clause and express the speaker's opinion/attitude

She is obviously intelligent. / They certainly deserved the sentence. / Apparently he was right.

Explain whether the final word of the sentence is an adjective, or an adverb:

1. The sun burnt the grass quickly.
2. It burnt the grass black.
3. He drove his employees hard.
4. He drove some of them mad.
5. I find this very unlikely.
6. We found the people friendly.
7. This made everyone late.
8. I have made his acquaintance lately.
9. The doctor soon made the patient well.
10. We can make breakfast early.
11. What made my bed so hard?
12. He shall leave the house early.
13. We shall leave the room empty.
14. I can paint your hall pink.
15. I can paint this wall fast.
16. Pull the rope hard.
17. Pull the rope tight.
18. He turned the corner well.
19. The heat turned the milk sour.
20. You must wipe the windscreen clean.
21. The judge sentenced the accused mildly.
22. The court investigations ought to be fast.
23. She made her flat vacant.
24. They left the courtroom angrily.
25. Her visits to her brother in prison were frequent.
26. As always, my attorney was late.
27. He spoke to the gathered crowd loudly.

28. I wonder why the defendant laughing secretly.

29. The food and water we had left was scarce.

30. Public attitude about joining the European Union has changed significantly.

Explain whether the final word of the sentence is an adjective, or an adverb:

31. The sun burnt the grass quickly. **Adv**
32. It burnt the grass black.
33. He drove his employees hard.
34. He drove some of them mad.
35. I find this very unlikely. **Adv**
36. We found the people friendly.
37. This made everyone late.
38. I have made his acquaintance lately. **Adv**
39. The doctor soon made the patient well.
40. We can make breakfast early. **Adv**
41. What made my bed so hard?
42. He shall leave the house early. **Adv**
43. We shall leave the room empty.
44. I can paint your hall pink.
45. I can paint this wall fast. **Adv**
46. Pull the rope hard. **Adv**
47. Pull the rope tight.
48. He turned the corner well. **Adv**
49. The heat turned the milk sour.
50. You must wipe the windscreen clean.
51. The judge sentenced the accused mildly. **Adv**
52. The court investigations ought to be fast.
53. She made her flat vacant.
54. They left the courtroom angrily. **Adv**
55. Her visits to her brother in prison were frequent.
56. As always, my attorney was late.
57. He spoke to the gathered crowd loudly. **Adv**

58. I wonder why the defendant laughing secretly. **Adv**

59. The food and water we had left was scarce.

60. Public attitude about joining the European Union has changed significantly.

Adv

In each of the sentences, there are at least two possible positions for the adverb given.

1. Write each sentence twice, placing the adverb so as to suggest two distinctly different meanings.

2. Explain or paraphrase the sentences to show the differences in their meanings

1. He expresses his thanks. (naturally)
2. The teacher thought the student was not intelligent. (obviously)
3. There were few passengers on the bus on weekdays. (only)
4. The speaker had not argued his case at all. (clearly)
5. Some club members were horrified at the suggestion of small changes. (even)
6. I remember his being able to play football. (well)
7. The rescue party managed to take ten of the crew off the ship before it sank.
(just)
8. I don't want to be obliged to him by asking him a favor. (particularly)
9. I think he will find he has been rash in investing his money in those shares.
(rather)
10. Frank has decided to spend a few days in Austria on his way to Switzerland.
(also)
11. When I mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work.
(promptly)
12. He appreciated that my idea was a good one, but wasn't willing to lend me
his support. (quite)
13. Do you think you'll have enough money at the end of the month to take a
short holiday? (still)
14. I should ask him what he meant by his statement. (personally)
15. Have you made up your mind about what you want to do when you leave
school? (really)
16. He had the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong. (at least)

17. He will explain quite clearly what he intends to do. (in future)
18. The student overheard the teacher saying that his last essay was better.
(distinctly)
19. A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn't run on
Sundays because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
(normally)
20. As the solicitor said, the money had been divided among the brothers and
sisters of the childless dead man. (rightly)

In each of the sentences, there are at least two possible positions for the adverb given.

1. Write each sentence twice, placing the adverb so as to suggest two distinctly different meanings.
 2. Explain or paraphrase the sentences to show the differences in their meanings
21. a) He **naturally** expresses his thanks.
b) He expresses his thanks **naturally**.
 22. a) The teacher **obviously** thought the student was not intelligent.
b) The teacher thought the student was **obviously** not intelligent.
c) **Obviously**, the teacher thought the student was not intelligent.
 23. a) There were **only** few passengers on the bus on weekdays.
b) There were few passengers on the bus **only** on weekdays.
c) There were few passengers on the bus on weekdays **only**.
 24. a) The speaker had not argued his case **clearly** at all.
b) The speaker had not argued his case at all **clearly**.
 25. a) Some club members were horrified **even** at the suggestion of small changes.
b) Some club members were horrified at the suggestion of **even** small changes.
c) **Even** some club members were horrified at the suggestion of small changes.
 26. a) I remember his being able to play football **well**.
b) I remember **well** his being able to play football.
 27. a) The rescue party **just** managed to take ten of the crew off the ship before it sank.
b) The rescue party managed to take ten of the crew off the ship **just** before it sank.
c) The rescue party managed to take **just** ten of the crew off the ship before it sank.
 28. a) I **particularly** don't want to be obliged to him by asking him a favor.
b) I don't want to be obliged to him **particularly** by asking him a favor.
c) I don't want to be **particularly** obliged to him by asking him a favor.
 29. a) I **rather** think he will find he has been rash in investing his money in those shares.
b) I think he will find he has been **rather** rash in investing his money in those shares.
c) I think he will find he has been rash in **rather** investing his money in those shares.

30. a) Frank has **also** decided to spend a few days in Austria on his way to Switzerland.
b) Frank has decided to **also** spend a few days in Austria on his way to Switzerland.
c) Frank has decided to spend a few days in Austria **also** on his way to Switzerland.
31. a) When I mentioned the money involved, he **promptly** undertook to do the work.
b) When I mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work **promptly**.
c) When I **promptly** mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work.
d) **Promptly**, When I mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work.
32. a) He appreciated that my idea was **quite** a good one, but wasn't willing to lend me his support.
b) He appreciated that my idea was a good one, but wasn't **quite** willing to lend me his support.
33. a) Do you **still** think you'll have enough money at the end of the month to take a short holiday?
b) Do you think you'll **still** have enough money at the end of the month to take a short holiday?
c) Do you think you'll have enough money at the end of the month to **still** take a short holiday?
34. a) I should ask him **personally** what he meant by his statement.
b) I should ask him what he **personally** meant by his statement.
c) I **personally** should ask him what he meant by his statement.
35. a) Have you **really** made up your mind about what you want to do when you leave school?
b) Have you made up your mind about what you **really** want to do when you leave school?
36. a) He **at least** had the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong.
b) He had **at least** the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong.
c) He had the grace to **at least** admit that he was partly in the wrong.
d) He had the grace to admit that he was **at least** partly in the wrong.
e) **At least**, he had the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong.
37. a) **In the future**, he will explain quite clearly what he intends to do.
b) He will explain quite clearly what he intends to do **in the future**.
c) He will explain quite clearly **in the future** what he intends to do.

38. a) The student **distinctly** overheard the teacher saying that his last essay was better.
b) The student overheard the teacher **distinctly** saying that his last essay was better.
c) The student overheard the teacher saying that his last essay was **distinctly** better.
39. a) A spokesman for the bus company **normally** pointed out that buses couldn't run on Sundays
because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
b) A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn't **normally** run on Sundays
because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
c) A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn't run **normally** on Sundays
because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
d) A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn't run on Sundays
because
of the unwillingness of the staff to **normally** work overtime.
40. a) As the solicitor **rightly** said, the money had been divided among the brothers and sisters of
the childless dead man.
b) As the solicitor said, the money had been **rightly** divided among the brothers and sisters of
the childless dead man.

Use one of the following Intensifiers to finish the sentences.
Do not use any of the intensifiers twice.

absolutely, deeply, far, keenly, actually, definitely, fully, totally, badly, entirely,
well, greatly, utterly, bitterly, exceedingly, heartily, violently, completely,
extremely, highly

1. It was really _____ kind of you to help us.
2. I am _____ grateful to you.
3. We all feel _____ more certain of our position now.
4. The clerk's story was _____ exaggerated.
5. Did you _____ hear him threaten the girl?
6. I am sure she must have been _____ shaken.
7. I am _____ amazed to hear you say that.
8. You will _____ regret this one day.
9. We were all _____ moved by his story.
10. The result of the elections is now _____ confirmed.
11. The situation has _____ changed.
12. We are not _____ satisfied with the result.
13. Mr. Chairman, I _____ support the last speaker's remarks.
14. We _____ agree with your proposal.
15. SIEMENS is _____ interested in his work.
16. We need technicians who are _____ trained.

17. All the guests were _____ ill that night.

18. I can _____ imagine how the poor hostess felt.

19. We _____ reject your accusations against us.

20. I can see what you mean. I am not _____ blind.

**Use one of the following Intensifiers to finish the sentences.
Do not use any of the intensifiers twice.**

*absolutely, deeply, far, keenly, actually, definitely, fully, totally, badly, entirely,
well, greatly, utterly, bitterly, exceedingly, heartily, violently, completely,
extremely, highly*

1. It was really **extremely** kind of you to help us.
2. I am **heartily** grateful to you.
3. We all feel **far** more certain of our position now.
4. The clerk's story was **exceedingly** exaggerated.
5. Did you **actually** hear him threaten the girl?
6. I am sure she must have been **completely** shaken.
7. I am **greatly** amazed to hear you say that.
8. You will **bitterly** regret this one day.
9. We were all **deeply** moved by his story.
10. The result of the elections is now **definitely** confirmed.
11. The situation has **violently** changed.
12. We are not **fully** satisfied with the result.
13. Mr. Chairman, I **keenly** support the last speaker's remarks.
14. We **entirely** agree with your proposal.
15. SIEMENS is **absolutely** interested in his work.
16. We need technicians who are **highly** trained.

17. All the guests were *badly* ill that night.
18. I can *well* imagine how the poor hostess felt.
19. We *utterly* reject your accusations against us.
20. I can see what you mean. I am not *totally* blind.