

## Topic: Adverbs

Adverbs provide a description of how, where, when, in what manner and to what extent something happens or is done.

Adverbs are divided into five common types: Adverb of manner, degree, place, time, and frequency.

### Adverbs of Manner

An adverb of manner will explain how an action is carried out. Very often adverbs of manner are adjectives with “ly” added to the end, but this is certainly not always the case.

**Some examples of adverbs of manner include:**

- Slowly
- Rapidly
- Badly
- Sadly

**Examples of adverb of manner in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.**

1. She passed the exam **easily**.
2. They walk **quickly** to catch the train.
3. The dinner party went **badly**.
4. John answered the question **correctly**.

Notice how the adverbs are formed by adding “ly” to the adjectives **quick**, **bad**, and **correct**, although there is a slight spelling change when forming an adverb with the adjective **easy**.

Some adverbs of manner take the same spelling as the adjective and never add an “ly” to the end:

1. The boys worked **hard**.
2. Julia dances **well**.

### Adverbs of Degree

Adverbs of degree help us to express how much or to what extent we do something. Common adverbs of degree include: very, slightly, quite, totally, fairly, absolutely, and extremely.

**Examples of adverb of place in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.**

1. I am **extremely** hungry.
2. I'm **fairly** certain I locked the door.
3. I'm **quite** happy.
4. I am **not very** happy.
5. I'm **totally** convinced Sam will quit his job.
6. We gave them a **really** tough match. (The adverb really modifies the adjective tough.)
7. We don't go to the movies **terribly often**. (The adverb terribly modifies the adverb often.)
8. I **really** like that film. (The adverb really modifies the verb like.)

## Adverbs of place

An adverb of place, sometimes called spatial adverbs, will help explain where an action happens. Adverbs of place will be associated with the action of the verb in a sentence, providing context for **direction**, **distance** and **position**: southeast, everywhere, up, left, close by, back, inside, around. These terms don't usually end in "ly".

**Examples of adverb of place in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.**

### *Directions*

1. New York is located **north** of Philadelphia.
2. They traveled **down** the mountainside.
3. First, I looked **here**, and then I looked **there**, but I can't find them **anywhere**.

### *Distance*

1. Jane is moving **far away**.
2. Carla is sitting **close** to me.

### **Position**

1. The treasure lies **underneath** the box.
2. The cat is sleeping **on** the bed.
3. Why are you standing **in** the middle of the dance floor?

## Adverbs of Time

Adverbs of time, while seemingly similar to adverbs of frequency, tell us when something happens.

**Examples of adverb of time in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.**

1. Harvey forgot his lunch **yesterday** and again **today**.
2. I have to go **now**.
3. We first met Julie **last year**.

While it is almost always correct to have the adverb of time at the end of the sentence, you can place it at the start of the sentence to put a different emphasis on the time if it is important to the context.

1. **Last year** was the worst year of my life.
2. **Tomorrow** our fate will be sealed.
3. **Yesterday** my troubles seemed so far away.

## **Adverbs of Frequency**

Adverbs of frequency are used to express time or how often something occurs. Adverbs of frequency can be split into two main groups. The first, adverbs of indefinite frequency, are terms that have an unclear meaning as to how long or how often something occurs: usually, always, normally.

**Examples of adverb of frequency in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.**

1. He **usually** comes to my house.
2. They will **always** love it.
3. We get paid **hourly**.
4. The situation seems to change **monthly**.
5. The newspaper is bought **daily**.