

Adverbs [1/2]

Adverbs are words or phrases that modify or qualify an adjective, a verb, another adverb or a word group; they should not be confused with adjectives, which modify nouns. Adverbs provide a description of how, where, when, in what manner or to what extent something is done or happens. Many adverbs end in 'ly' (quickly, loudly, frequently), while others are the same as their adjective counterparts (fast, long, wide).

There are several different types of adverbs, which include the following:

Adverbs of manner

Adverbs of manner describe how an action is carried out.

He walked **slowly** through the field.
We worked **hard** all day.
Their friendship ended **badly**.

The position of an adverb of manner in a sentence can change the meaning of a sentence. Compare:

I **quietly** asked him to leave.
(The manner in which I asked was quiet.)
I asked him to leave **quietly**.
(I asked him leave in a manner that was quiet.)

Rules relating to adverbs of manner:

- ✓ Never place such adverbs between the object and the verb in a sentence.
- ✓ If there is a preposition before the object, place the adverb either before the preposition or after the object of the sentence.
- ✓ To emphasize the adverb, place it before both the verb and the object (**Silently**, he emerged from the shadows.).

Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place describe where something happens. They can be related to direction, distance or position, and are normally placed after the object or main verb of the sentence. Adverbs of place should not be confused with prepositions, which modify nouns.

Direction:

I stood **up** and walked **away**.
San Diego is located **north** of the Mexican border.
We went **here**, **there** and **everywhere**.

We can also use 'here' and 'there' at the beginning of a sentence for emphasis:

Here comes the mailman!
There you are!

Some adverbs of place describe direction of movement and end in '-ward' or 'wards':

We're travelling **onwards** to Mumbai.
Keep moving **forward**.

Distance:

He sat **close** to me.
They're moving **far away**.

An adverb of place can indicate an object's position in relation to another object:

The clouds floated high **above**.
Kate got tired and started to fall **behind**.

Adverbs of frequency

Adverbs of frequency describe how often something occurs, either in definite (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly) or indefinite (rarely, sometimes, often) terms. They are often used with the present simple tense.

Adverbs of indefinite frequency are usually placed before the main verb:

I will **always** love you.
I will **never** forget you.

However, adverbs of definite frequency are usually placed at the end of a sentence:

She gets paid **hourly**.
The newspaper is printed **daily**.

Rules relating to adverbs of frequency:

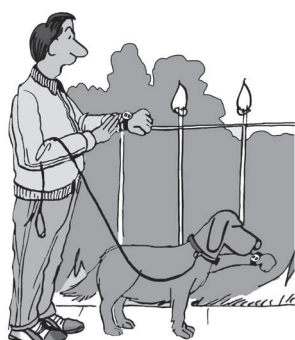
- ✓ If a sentence has only one verb, place the adverb of frequency in the middle of the sentence, so that it is positioned after the subject but before the verb.
I **never** drive. I **always** take the bus.
- ✓ When a sentence contains an auxiliary, place the adverb of frequency before the main verb.
She has **often** travelled alone.
- ✓ When using an adverb of frequency in the negative or in a question, place it before the main verb.
Do you **normally** wake up at this time?

EXERCISE 1 Identify the adverbs

Underline the adverbs in the following sentences.

- 1/ Monty Python worked hard on their craft and contributed greatly to the world of comedy.
- 2/ While working for the BBC, they held daily brainstorming sessions and worked well together.
- 3/ Their resulting comedy series fast became considered one of the greatest of all times, and is often aired globally to bemused audiences.
- 4/ Over the years, they have travelled far and wide promoting their act and have seldom used traditional comedy techniques.
- 5/ You can find references to Monty Python here, there and everywhere, if you know what to look for!

EXERCISE 2 Complete the sentences



"We're aiming for 5,000 steps.
Slowly but surely."

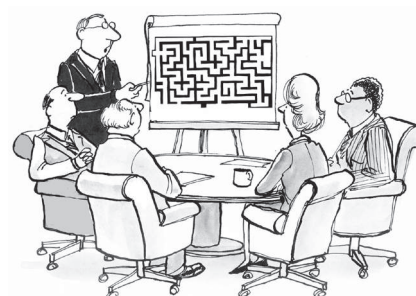
Choose the correct adverb to complete these sentences.

- 1/ I have to stop eating ultra-processed foods _____.
a. immediately b. abruptly c. exactly
- 2/ I definitely wouldn't feel _____ if I ate too much junk food.
a. badly b. well c. healthily
- 3/ It's important to eat fruits and vegetables _____.
a. daily b. normally c. usually
- 4/ I'm glad that I live _____ to a farmer's market.
a. beside b. behind c. close
- 5/ You could try _____ increasing your intake of fresh greens.
a. gradually b. fast c. weekly

EXERCISE 3 The correct order

Complete the sentences with the phrases in brackets in the correct order, adding the correct punctuation where necessary.

- 1/ I _____ when I need to look up a word.
(use the OED/always)
- 2/ I _____ all the new words I had learnt.
(immediately/wrote down)
- 3/ The OED is _____.
(compiled/by a team of qualified people/expertly)
- 4/ _____.
(copy of/the latest/the OED/here is)
- 5/ _____?
(to look up words/ever/use the OED/do you)



"What we've done
is make it dramatically
easier to navigate
the corporate hierarchy."