



IIT Madras

ONLINE DEGREE

Copyright and terms of use

IIT Madras is the sole owner of the content available in this portal - onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in and the content is copyrighted to IIT Madras.

- Learners may download copyrighted material for their use for the purpose of the online program only.
- Except as otherwise expressly permitted under copyright law, no use other than for the purpose of the online program is permitted.
- No copying, redistribution, retransmission, publication or exploitation, commercial or otherwise of material will be permitted without the express permission of IIT Madras.
- Learner acknowledges that he/she does not acquire any ownership rights by downloading copyrighted material.
- Learners may not modify, publish, transmit, participate in the transfer or sale, create derivative works, or in any way exploit, any of the content, in whole or in part.

Adverbs

Rajesh Kumar

Sentence

- Sentence = [Subject + Predicate]
- Predicate = [Verb + Object(s) [adjuncts/adverbs]]
 - Verbs can be transitive and intransitive.
- Raju loves pizza.
- Raju goes to the market everyday.
- Raju teaches school kids English in the evening.

Adverbs in a sentence

- Raju loves pizza.
- Everyday Raju eats thin pizza in the evening.
- Raju eats cheese pizza regularly in the evening.
- Raju eats pizza always with his friends in the evening after classes.

Things to notice ...

- Adverbs are structurally fluid.
- Adverbs do not modify/describe a noun.
- Nominal modifiers are called adjectives.

What is an adverb?

- An adverb is a word that modifies (describes)
 - a verb
He sings loudly.
 - an adjective
Very tall
 - another adverb
ended too quickly
 - even a whole sentence
Fortunately, I had brought an umbrella.
- Adverbs often end in -ly, but some such as *fast* look like adjectives.
- Adverbs often answer questions such as *how*, *when*, *where*, *why*, etc.
- They do not answer questions such as *who* and *what*.

Examples ...

It's easy to identify adverbs in the following sentences.

- Raju did not play **badly**.
- Meena is **very** tall.
- The class finished **too** quickly.
- **Fortunately**, Raju recorded Meena's dance.

Functions of adverbs

- She sang **loudly**.
(*loudly* modifies the verb *sang*, indicating the manner of singing)
- We left it **here**.
(*here* modifies the verb phrase *left it*, indicating place)
- I worked **yesterday**.
(*yesterday* modifies the verb *worked*, indicating time)
- They **often** make mistakes.
(*often* modifies the verb phrase *make mistakes*, indicating frequency)
- He **undoubtedly** did it.
(*undoubtedly* modifies the verb phrase *did it*, indicating certainty)

As modifiers of adjectives (and other adverbs):

- She is **often** quiet.
(the adverb *often* modifies the adjective *quiet*)
- She cried **very** abruptly.
(the adverb *very* appears modifying another adverb –
abruptly by adding degree)

More on adverbs in English ...

- Adverbs can modify determiners, prepositional phrases (which are adverbs by themselves), or a whole clause or a sentence:
- I bought **practically** the only sandwich.
(*practically* modifies the determiner *the* in the noun phrase, *the only fruit* wherein "only" is an adjective)
- She drove us **almost** to the station.
(*almost* modifies the prepositional phrase *to the station*)
- **Certainly**, we need to act.
(*certainly*, modifies the sentence as a whole)