



## Adverbs

Adverbs are words that can modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. So if you are not familiar with the concept of adverbs yet, read this.

### What Are Adverbs?

'**Adverbs**' are words that are used to modify '**adjectives**,' '**verbs**,' other '**adverbs**,' '**determiners**,' clauses, prepositions, or sentences. They provide more information about the manner, place, time, degree, frequency, or reason of an action, state, or quality by answering questions like when?, where?, why?, how?, how much?, how long?, how often? in what way? and to what extent?

## Types of Adverbs

The following are the main types of adverbs in English:

- [Adverbs of place](#)
- [Adverbs of time](#)
- [Adverbs of manner](#)
- [Adverbs of frequency](#)
- [Adverbs of degree](#)
- [Adverbs of probability](#)
- [Adverbs of movement and direction](#)
- [Demonstrative adverbs](#)
- [Relative adverbs](#)
- [Interrogative adverbs](#)
- [Conjunctive adverbs](#)
- [Viewpoint and commenting adverbs](#)
- [Intensifiers and mitigators](#)
- [Adverbial nouns](#)

## Adverbs: Functions

As mentioned earlier, adverbs can modify '**adjectives**,' '**verbs**,' other '**adverbs**,' '**determiners**,' clauses, prepositions, or sentences.

### Modifying Verbs

The **main function** of adverbs is to modify verbs or verb phrases. Adverbs are used to give us more information about the *manner*, *place*, *time*, *frequency*, *certainty*, etc.

Take a look at some examples:

She danced **beautifully**.

\* Here, 'beautifully' modifies the verb 'danced,' indicating the **manner** of dancing.

I left my wallet there.

\* 'There' modifies the verb phrase 'left my wallet,' indicating **place**.

My uncle is going to London **tomorrow**.

\* Here, 'tomorrow' modifies the verb phrase 'is going to,' indicating **time**.

She **often** works on the weekend.

\* 'Often' modifies the verb 'works,' indicating **frequency**.

She has **probably** gone home.

\* 'Probably' modifies the verb phrase 'has gone,' indicating **probability**.

## Modifying Adjectives and Adverbs

We can also use adverbs to modify adjectives and other adverbs, often to indicate **degree**. For examples:

The turtle moves **very** slowly.

\* The adverb 'very' modifies another adverb 'slowly.'

This cake is **absolutely** delicious.

\* The adverb 'absolutely' modifies the adjective 'delicious.'

## Modifying Determiners and Prepositional Phrases

Adverbs can also be used to modify determiners and prepositional phrases. Take a look at the following examples:

I've watched **practically** all of his movies.

\* 'Practically' modifies the determiner 'all' in the noun phrase, 'all of his movies'.

He's **almost** as old as I am.

\* 'Almost' modifies the prepositional phrase 'as old as.'

## Modifying Sentences

We can also use adverbs to modify whole clauses or sentences. For example:

**Undoubtedly**, people have become more interested in social media.

\* 'Undoubtedly' modifies the sentence as a whole.

**Unfortunately**, we couldn't finish the project on time.

\* 'Unfortunately' modifies the sentence as a whole.

## Adverbs as Subject Complements

Adverbs can sometimes be used as **predicative subject complements**. Mostly adverbs of **place** can be used in this way. For example:

Our seat is **there**.

**Here** is where the trouble starts.

\* In this sentence, 'where the trouble starts' is the subject and 'here' is the predicate. The sentence has a subject-verb inversion.

## Adverbs: Structures

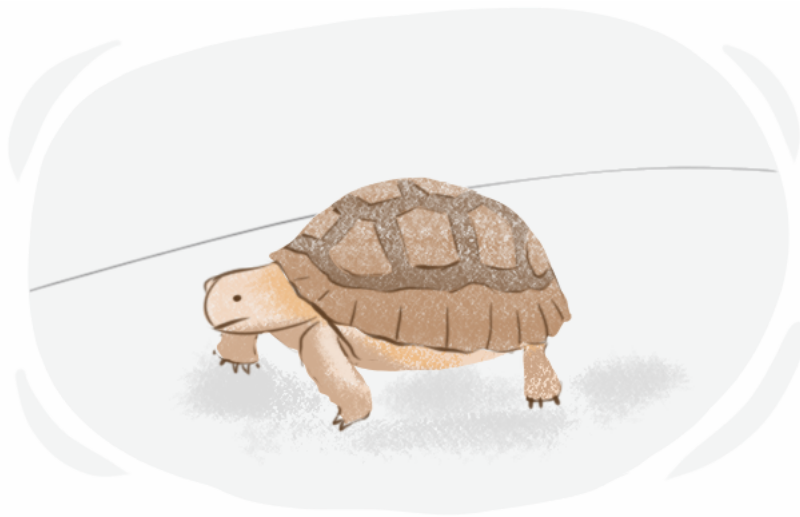
In English (as in many other languages), adverbs are formed in various ways. For example, adverbs of **manner** are formed by adding the suffix '-ly' to adjectives. For example:

quick → **quickly**

slow → **slowly**

Some words can be used as both adjectives and adverbs. These words are called **flat adverbs** (also called **bare adverbs** or **simple adverbs**). For example:

- fast
- hard
- straight



The turtle crawled **slowly** over the street.

using an adverb of manner in a sentence

## Adverbs: Position in Sentence

Adverbs of **manner** are generally placed after the verb and its objects. However, other positions are possible too. Pay attention to the examples:

He drove **carefully**.

He **carefully** drove.

Many adverbs of **frequency**, **degree**, **certainty**, etc. tend to be placed before the verb. However, if there is an *auxiliary*, these adverbs are normally placed after it.

I **usually** bake cookies.

I can **usually** manage to stay calm.

Adverbs that show a *connection with the previous sentences*, and those that provide *the context for a sentence*, are normally placed at the beginning of the sentence.

**Next**, put the turkey in the oven for 45 minutes.

If the verb has an **object**, the adverb comes after the object. For example:

I read the book **quickly**.

## Adverbs: Order

If you want to use *more than one* 'adverb' in a sentence, it is important to place them in the correct order. There is a set of rules to follow, called the **order of adverbs**. The adverbs are placed in the following order:

1. Adverbs of manner
2. Adverbs of place
3. Adverbs of frequency
4. Adverbs of time

Pay attention to the following examples:

I run **quickly** (manner) **down** the road (place) **every morning** (frequency) **before** school (time).

I study **carefully** (manner) at **school** (place), because I have to become an engineer.

## Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Like adjectives, **adverbs** can show *degrees of comparison*. But it's less common to use them in comparison.

- To make the **comparative** form of adverbs with two or more syllables, add '**more**' before the adverb.
- To make the **superlative** form of adverbs with two or more syllables, add '**most**' before the adverb.

She walked **more** quickly than the others.

She walked the **most** quickly of them all.

When an adverb has the *same form* as its corresponding adjective, the comparative and superlative forms of the adverb are **identical** to those of the adjective. Pay attention to the examples:

She speaks **faster** than Sara and I cannot understand anything.

\* Here, fast is an adverb which has the same form as the adjective 'fast'.

Maria works **harder** than before so that she can buy a new car.

### Tip!

Certain linking verbs tend to be followed by **adjectives** rather than adverbs, including 'smell', 'feel', 'appear', etc.

The food smells **good**. (Not 'The food smells **well**.')

## Adverbial Phrases

'[Adverbial phrases](#)' are groups of words that act as **adverbs**. An adverb phrase may have an adverb as its head, along with any accompanying modifiers and complements. For example:

Handle the fragile vase **very carefully** while moving it.

As a former athlete, I know **all too well** the importance of staying hydrated during a game.

**Sadly enough**, many people are still not aware of the devastating effects of climate change on our planet.

Another common type of adverb phrase is the **prepositional phrase**, which consists of a **preposition** and **its object**. Pay attention to the examples:

I will talk to my father **in the morning**.

His car is parked **on the corner**.

## Adverbial Clauses

[Clauses](#) must contain at least one subject and one verb to be considered grammatically complete. Consequently, **adverbial clauses** are composed of a subject and verb and *function* as **adverbs**, modifying the verb in the main clause.. Look at the examples.

The bosses signed the contracts **after they had talked about the subjects**.

He left **before the conversation ended**.

\* As you can see, 'before the conversation ended' acts as an adverb and modifies the verb 'left'.

## Review

**Adverbs** are used to modify adjectives, verbs, or other adverbs. There are different types of adverbs in English. Check out the list.

- *adverbs of manner*
- *adverbs of place*
- *adverbs of time*
- *adverbs of frequency*

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### Adverb Placement and Order



We can put adverbs at the front, in the middle, or at the end of a clause. Each can have its own function. We'll also learn about the orders of adverbs.

