



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

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# Adverbs – Comment, Viewpoint and Focus

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# Comment Adverbs

Comment adverbs	Examples
Indicates likelihood	Apparently, certainly, clearly, definitely, in theory, obviously, presumably, undoubtedly
Indicate our attitude or opinion	Astonishingly, frankly, generally, honestly, to be honest, interestingly, luckily, naturally, in my opinion, personally, sadly, seriously, surprisingly, unbelievably
Show our judgement of someone's action	Bravely, carelessly, foolishly, generously, kindly, rightly, stupidly, wisely, wrongly

Comment adverbs can occur in front, middle or end of the sentence. Sometimes, comment adverbs are applicable to the whole sentence, in which case, we usually separate from the rest of the sentence with a comma.

# Example

1. The plane *apparently* overshot the runway after landing.
2. Your plan sounds fine *in theory*, but will it work?
3. *Presumably*, he speaks Spanish.
4. *In my opinion*, he is one of the best students in the class.
5. *Honestly speaking*, I don't care what the world thinks.
6. She *obviously* wants you to stay.
7. Please give *generously* to the Blue Cross.
8. *Frankly*, I'm not surprised her family disowned her.

# Viewpoint Adverbs

We use viewpoint adverbs to indicate our perspectives clearer.

- a) Financially, the hospitalisation has been a disaster for my neighbour.
- b) The sisters might be alike physically, but they have very different personalities.

## OTHER EXAMPLES

Biologically, chemically, environmentally, ideologically, logically, morally, outwardly, politically, technically, visually

Phrases: Morally speaking, in political terms, from a technical point of view, as far as environment is concerned etc.

# Examples

1. What you did was not illegal, but it was *morally* wrong.
2. Much of our behavior is *biologically* determined.
3. *Outwardly* the couple appeared happy.
4. *Technically*, the two countries are still at war.
5. He certainly was not *politically* inactive.

# Focus Adverbs – Only

‘Even’ and ‘only’ usually go in mid position of a sentence. But if they refer to the subject, they may come before it.

- a) My brother has *only* brought some books. (He didn’t get anything else other than books).
  
- b) *Only* my brother has brought some food. (It is my brother and nobody else).

# Focus Adverb – Even and Alone

- a) *Even* Liya can speak English. (you might not expect her to)
- b) Liya can *even* speak German (in addition to everything else that she can do).

When we use '*alone*' to mean '*only*', it comes after a noun.

- a) It is not possible to pass this exam with luck *alone*. (need to work hard).