



CHAPTER - 10

Adverbs and Adverbials

Adverbs tell us more about verbs :

Look at the answers to the following questions carefully.

1. a. How did he behave ?
b. He behaved *foolishly*.
2. a. When did you visit Konark ?
b. I visited Konark *last year*.
3. a. Where were the children playing ?
b. They were playing *there/in the park*.
4. a. How often does he come here ?
b. He comes here *occasionally/everyday*.

In the above sentences *foolishly* tells us how or the *manner* in which the action happened; *last year* tells us about the *time* when it took place; *there/in the park* tells us about the *place* where the work was done; *occasionally/everyday* tells us how frequently the action took place. All these give us some extra information about the verbs (*how, when, where* and *how frequently* an action happened). These words are called **adverbs**. Adverbs have different names according to the information they give us. We do not normally use adverbs after link verbs such as **be, become, feel, get, look, appear, seem**, etc. We rather use an adjective after them. We do not say, *He felt happily*. We rather say— *He felt happy* (adj). So if the sentence has a **link verb**, the answer to the question will be an *adjective*, not an *adverb*. We can usually identify them by asking some *wh-questions*. Look at the following table.

Wh-Questions	Answers/Information	Type of Adverbs
How	foolishly, sadly, quickly, angrily, happily, etc.	Adverb of Manner
When	now, then, yesterday, today, last Monday, at 10 o'clock, in the morning, tonight, etc.	Adverb of Time
Where	here, there, in the park, at school, in India, etc.	Adverb of Place
How often	occasionally, always, often, rarely, every week, sometimes, usually, never, etc.	Adverb of Frequency

Form of the Adverb

- (a) Some adverbs have no special form. They are *soon, always, so, perhaps, never, just, yet, often, very, too, rather*, etc.
- (b) Most *adverbs of manner* are made by adding **-ly** to the adjective. The meaning of the adverb so made is very closely related to the adjectives from which they are made.

Adjective

He is a *quiet* worker.

He is *slow*.

Seema is *polite*.

Adverb

He works *quietly*.

He works *slowly*.

She behaves *politely*.

There are some *adjectives* which end in *-ly*, such as *friendly, silly, sickly, lovely, lively, fatherly, motherly, manly, womanly*, etc. We do not add another *-ly* to these adjectives to form *adverbs*. We can change these adjectives to adverbial in the following manner : in a + *adjective* + *manner / fashion / way*.

Adjective

Pintoo is a friendly boy.

She is very silly.

The old lady is very motherly.

Adverb

Pintoo behaves in a friendly manner.

(Not, Pintoo behaves friendly.)

She behaves in a silly manner/way.

(Not, she behaves sillily.)

The old lady treated us in a motherly fashion/way.

- (c) Some adverbs end in *-ward* to show direction.

I pushed him *backward*.

The soldiers marched *forward*.

The cattle returned *homeward*.

Other such adverbs are, *onward*, *upward*, *downward*, *eastward*, *inward*, *outward*, *skyward*, *seaward*, *etc.*

- (d) Some adverbs end in *-wise* to show manner or direction.

To close the bottle, turn the cap *clockwise*.

The tailor cut the cloth *breadthwise*.

We distributed the work *classwise*.

- (e) Some adverbs are formed by adding **a-** to the beginning of a noun or adjective.

Let us begin the work *afresh*. (=again from the beginning)

Pull the curtain *aside*. (= to one side)

Manu read the poem *aloud* (=loudly)

I wrote to her from *afar*. (=from a far place)

Other examples are *along*, *across*, *ahead*, *around*, *abroad*, *awhile*.

(All words beginning in *a* are not *adverbs*. Some of them may be adjectives or prepositions.

Examples *about*, *aflame*, *afire*, *afloat*, *alive*, *awake*, *etc.*)

- (f) Some adverbs of manner have the same forms as the adjectives. We do not add-ly to the adjectives to make them adverbs.

Adjective

Fast : It is a *fast* train.

Hard : He is a *hard* worker

Late : The bus is *late* today.

Monthly : I get a *monthly* electric bill.

Better : Ramesh is a *better* player.

Well : Is he not *well* ?

Adverb

This train goes *fast*.

He works *hard*.

The bus arrived *late* to day.

I pay the bill *monthly*.

Ramesh played *better* today.

He played *well*.

Types of adverbs :

A. Adverb of Manner :

An *Adverb of manner* tells us *how/the manner* in which an action takes place. We can usually find out these adverbs by asking the question – **how** ? Most adverbs of manner end in -ly. A few *adverbs of manner* may have the same form as the *adjective*, as in I.c. below.

1. a. We walked *slowly*.
- b. They could *easily* find out the house.
- c. They ran *fast* to catch the train.

Adverbs of Manner usually come at the end of a sentence (1.a). Sometimes they also come in the middle of the sentence with the verb group (1.b).

B. Adverb of Time :

Adverb of Time answers the question – *When / at what time* ?

2. a. We go to school at 10 o'clock.
- b. Papu was ill *yesterday*. Or, *Yesterday* Papu was ill.
- c. The train will arrive *soon*.
- d. He has *just* gone out.

Adverbs of Time usually go at the end of a sentence. They can go at the *beginning*, too. Adverbs of time like *just*, *already*, *yet*, *soon*, go in the *mid* or *end* position.

C. Adverb of Place :

Adverbs of Place tell us where the action takes place. They answer the question –*where* ? or in *What direction* ? The common adverbs of place are : *here, there, nearby, any where, inside, outside, upward, downward, upstairs, downstairs, etc.* Some adverbs of place are in the shape of a phrase like : *in the park, under a tree, outside the hall, etc.*

3. a. We sat *under a tree*.
- b. The car turned *left*.
- c. Mr. Mishra lives *upstairs*.

Adverbs of Place usually come at the end of a sentence.

D. Adverb of Frequency :

Adverbs of Frequency say how often a thing happens. They answer the question –*how often* ? Some examples are : *always, often, usually, normally, generally, sometimes, occasionally, ever, never, etc.*

4. a. I *sometimes* prefer tea.
- b. Mami is *always* late for school.
- c. I *sometimes* play football.
- d. Have you *ever* been to Kapilas ?
- e. Do you *sometimes* see him ?

Adverbs of Frequency can go in all the *three positions*. In questions, however, they go after the subject. (4.d. and 4.e.)

E. Adverbs of Degree :

Some adverbs also tell us more about adjectives and other adverbs. They are called **adverbs of degree**. They make the meaning of the *adjectives* or *adverbs* stronger or weaker. See the examples :

I. Adverbs with adjectives :

5. It is *very* cold today.
6. They are *absolutely* right.
7. The game was not *at all* interesting.

8. This is *fairly* a big house.
9. This house is not big *enough* for us.

II. Adverbs with other adverbs.

10. We won the match *quite* easily.
11. You sang *fairly* well.
12. He can run *very* fast.
13. You came *rather* late.
14. The firemen reached quickly *enough* (*enough* goes after the adjective/adverb it modifies)

F. Sentence adverbs :

Some adverbs give a view point about the idea expressed in the entire sentence. These adverbs are called **sentence adverbs**.

15. *Luckily*, no one was hurt.
16. *Unfortunately*, he lost the chance.
17. *Of course*, you can apply for the post.
18. We can *certainly* / *probably* raise the issue.

(Other examples : *in fact*, *really*, *possibly*, *perhaps*, *naturally*, *etc.*)

Sentence adverbs usually come at the *beginning of the sentence*, although they may take the mid or end position.

Other words used both as *adjective* and *adverb* are : *daily*, *weekly*, *early*, *high*, *low*, *last*, *long*, *near*, *straight*, *wide*, *worse*, *right*, *wrong*, *far*, *inside*, *outside*, etc. As adjectives these words are used *attributively* or *predicatively after be/become* type verbs.

Activity 1 :

Underline and name the **adverbs** in the following sentences.

1. We looked carefully at the man.
2. Suddenly we heard a noise.
3. She spoke in a friendly way.

4. They worked really hard.
5. We played till evening.
6. They are quite tired.
7. I have never seen him earlier.
8. Luckily we won the match.
9. Sometimes they are irregular.
10. We reached home early yesterday.

Activity 2 :

Change the word in brackets into an **adverb** and use it in the blank spaces.

1. We did the sum _____. (quick)
2. Meera danced _____ well. (fair)
3. We waited there _____. (patient)
4. _____we escaped unhurt. (lucky)
5. She is _____ a dancer. (probable)
6. It is _____. cold here. (terrible)
7. He _____ looks better today. (certain)
8. The baby slept _____. (quiet)
9. I am _____ satisfied with you. (full)
10. Walk on the road _____. (careful)

G. There are some words which are used as adverbs of manner with or without -ly, but their meanings differ :

hard (with great effort). He works *hard* to pass the examination.

hardly (–almost not) : He *hardly* comes here.

near (=close by) : I found a post office quite *near*.

nearly (=almost) : I *nearly* met with an accident.

free (=without paying) I got this book *free*.

freely (=without restriction) : The cows are moving *freely* in the field.

late (=after the usual time) The train arrived *late*.

lately (=in the recent past) We have moved into this house *lately*.

[Similarly : *high/highly, clean/cleanly, direct/directly, deep/deeply, bare/barely, scarce/scarcely, short/shortly, present/presently.*]

H. Good and well :

Good is adjective and *well* is its adverb.

Madhuri is a *good* dancer. (adjective).

The show was very *good* (adjective).

Madhuri dances *well* (adverb).

They all acted *well* (adverb).

Well can also be an *adjective* meaning ‘*in good health*’ when it is used after a *be/become type verb*.

She *is/became/looked well*. (adj.)

Activity 3 :

Fill in the blanks choosing from the pair in brackets.

1. This work is very _____. We finished it _____ (easy / easily).
2. Mama drew a _____ picture. (beautiful / beautifully)
3. The children were _____. They played _____. (happy / happily)
4. I met him _____. My meeting with the man was quite _____.
(unexpected / unexpectedly)
5. The old woman was weeping _____. She looked very _____.
(sad / sadly)
6. I am working very _____. (hard / hardly)

Activity 4 :

Fill in the blanks choosing from the pairs of adverbs in the box below.

late/lately, hard/hardly, short/shortly, high/highly, free/freely

1. We reached school very _____.
2. They worked _____ to finish the work in time.
3. The meeting will be held _____.
4. Birds can fly very _____.
5. The poor man got the food _____.

Activity 5 :

Say whether the italicized words are **adverbs** or **adjectives**.

1. His house is very *near*.
2. Our examination is drawing *near*.
3. We were driving along a very *wide* road.
4. Open your mouth *wide*.
5. He looks *better* today.
6. Pranati can sing *better*.

Adverbials :

Adverbs and *adverbials* very often mean the same thing. An *adverbial* has more than one word.

She came into the room *quietly*. She came into the room *in a quiet manner*.

Adverbials can be of the following categories.

1. An adverb phrase :
We were driving *very slowly*.
They played *wonderfully well*.
2. A prepositional phrase :
We were playing *in the park*.
Mother is not *at home*.
I cut it *with a knife*.

3. A noun phrase :

He came *last Sunday*.

Mihir lives *next door*.

I got your letter *this morning*.

In this chapter we will use the term **adverb** which will also include the above three categories of **adverbials**.

Position and Order of Adverbs :

Adverbs do not follow a rigid rule for their position. They mainly go in *three positions* in a sentence : front, middle and end positions. Look at the position of the adverb *slowly* below.

1. *Slowly* I opened the door. (front-position)
2. I *slowly* opened the door. (mid-position)
3. I opened the door *slowly*. (end-position)

Front Position :

3. a. *Perhaps* the man is blind. (sentence adverb)
- b. *Yesterday* I met him in a shop. (adverb of time)
- c. *Usually* he comes to office in time. (adverb of frequency)
- d. *Slowly* he opened the door. (adverb of manner)

All sentence adverbs and most **adverbs of time** go in the front position 3(a) and 3(b). Some *frequency adverbs* like *usually*, *sometimes*, *normally*, *occasionally* also can go in the *front position*, (These adverbs do not tell us the exact number of frequency.) 3(b). We use the **adverb of manner** in the *front position* for special emphasis 3(d).

Mid position :

In the *mid position* adverbs can go in three different places in relation to the verb.

- (i) When the main verb of the sentence is a ‘**be**’ verb, the adverb goes immediately after it.

4. a. They are *really* hardworking
b. She is *probably* right.

- (ii) Sometimes a *verb phrase* may have two or more parts (*has done, will be finished, etc.*), here the *adverb* goes after *the first auxiliary*.

5. a. I have *never* seen a tiger.
b. He is *always* doing something.
c. He would *certainly* have met you earlier.

But adverbs of manner and degree go after the second auxiliary.

- d. I have been *patiently* waiting for him. (adverb of manner)
e. They would have *definitely* done this. (adverb of degree)

- (iii) Adverbs go immediately before the main verb if it is not a ‘**be**’ verb. (The verb is in its simple tense form.)

6. a. I *certainly* feel better today. (sentence adverb)
b. He *hardly* does his work properly. (adverb of frequency)
c. I *soon* realized my mistake. (adverb of time)

Adverbs of *frequency, manner, some sentence adverbs* and a few *time adverbs* like *soon, just, etc.* go in this position.

Adverbs of frequency like *always, never, seldom, scarcely, etc.* go in the *mid position*. Normally they do not go in the *front position*. But for special emphasis they go in the *front position*. When they are used at the beginning of the sentence, they are followed by the auxiliary, then the subject and then the main verb.

6. d. *Rarely* have I come across such a sight.
e. *Seldom* does he help anybody.

End Position :

Most adverbs of *manner*, *place*, *time* and *some adverbs of frequency* telling the exact number of occurrence such as “four times a week”, etc. go in the *end position*.

- (i) Adverbs come after the verb if the verb does not have a direct object.

7. a. The children are playing *happily*. (adverb of manner)
- b. Birds fly *in the sky*. (Adverb of place)

- (ii) If the verb has an object, the adverb goes after the object. It normally does not come between the verb and its object.

8. a. I met him *yesterday*. (adverb of time)
 - b. She painted the picture *carefully*. (Adverb of manner)
- (Not, She painted carefully the picture.)

Order of adverbs in the End Position :

- (i) Sometimes there may be more than one adverb in the *end position*. In such a case the normal order is adverb of manner (M), place (P), and time (T), or in short MPT.

9. a. She sang *beautifully yesterday*. (MT)
- b. She sang *beautifully in the town hall*. (MP)
- c. We played *in the park yesterday*. (PT)
- d. She sang *beautifully in the town hall last night*. (MPT)

- (ii) If the verb is a verb of movement requiring a destination (like *go*, *come*, *send*, *arrive*, *reach*, *throw*, etc.), *the adverb of place* goes first in the group of adverbs. In short, the MPT order changes to PMT.

Example :

10. a. We reached *home safely yesterday*. (PMT)
- b. They sent the patient *to the hospital by car last night*.
(PMT)

- (iii) When there are two or more adverbs of *time / place* in the *end position*, the adverb of *time / place* indicating smaller unit goes before the larger one.

11. a. Meet me at *11.30 on Monday next week*.

b. We lived *in a hotel in Puri*.

In example 11.a *11.30* is smaller than *Monday*, which is smaller than *next week*. In 11.b *hotel* smaller than *Puri*.

Position of Adverbs like, *even, only, just, simply, etc.*

The above adverbs are called *focus adverbs*. They can change places depending on where we want to place the focus (emphasis). Take the examples of **only**.

12. a. **Only** I met the boys at school.

(= nobody except me met the boys)

b. I **only** met the boys at school.

(= I only met them but did not do anything else.)

c. I met **only** the boys at school.

(= I met only the boys, not the girls or others.)

d. I met the boys **only** at school.

(= not out side the school.)

The above adverbs focus on the words before which they go.

Activity 6 :

Use the **adverbs** given in brackets in their right places.

1. He would help me. (certainly)
2. Have you been to Rourkela ? (ever)
3. Tipu is late for school. (usually)
4. She can paint well. (extremely)
5. My tooth is aching. (really)

6. These people are quarrelling. (always)
7. We had a lovely holiday. (last week)
8. I have finished the work. (just)
9. We crossed the river. (safely)
10. He died young. (unfortunately)

Activity 7 :

Put the **adverbs** given in the brackets in their right-order.

1. Govinda has been waiting (*for an hour, patiently*)
2. I went (*quickly, there*).
3. She ran (*into the room, quickly*).
4. Ramesh spoke (*in the meeting, this morning, nervously*).
5. Father called me (*angrily, into his room*).
6. It rained (*in the evening, heavily, at 6 o'clock*).
7. Leela rested (*in her bed, peacefully, until evening*).
8. I saw her (*in a shop, accidentally, in Cuttack*).
9. The car turned (*towards the school, left*).
10. Why was the *child crying (in the garden, so loudly, a while ago) ?*

Activity 8 :

Put the *adverbs* in their right places and fill in the blanks :

1. _____ I like to go _____ .
(*by four o'clock, home, usually*)
2. I _____ work _____ .
(*much faster, always, in the morning*)
3. He _____ behaves _____ .
(*at work, seldom, so carelessly*)
4. _____ we go _____ .
(*every day, to school, normally, at 10 o'clock*)
5. She _____ comes _____ .
(*these days, occasionally, to my house*)

Comparison of adverbs :

Look at the different forms of the adverb **fast** in the following sentences.

1. a. I can run *fast*.
- b. I can run *faster* than you
- c. I can run the *fastest* of all.

In the above sentences *fast*, *faster* and *fastest* are the different forms of comparison of the adverbs *fast*. They are the **positive**, the **comparative** and the **superlative** forms respectively.

We can make the *comparative* and the *superlative* form of adverbs in the following ways.

- (i) Some adverbs are made from adjectives by adding **-ly**. We form *the comparative* and *the superlative* of these adverbs by use of *more* and *most* respectively.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
cleverly	more cleverly	most cleverly
slowly	more slowly	most slowly
quickly	more quickly	most quickly.

- (ii) Some adverbs have the same form as of adjectives. We form *the comparative* or *the superlative* of these adverbs by adding **-er** or **-est** respectively.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
fast	faster	fastest
early	earlier	earliest
hard	harder	hardest
near	nearer	nearest.

- (iii) There are few irregular comparisons of adverbs. See the list :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
well	better	best
badly	worse	worst
far	farther/further	farthest/furthest
little	less	least
much	more	most

Use of some adverbs :

Yet, still, already, no longer

1. Yet

Yet is usually used in *interrogative* and *negative* sentences. It normally goes at the end of a sentence. We use **yet** to talk about something we are expecting.

1. a. They haven't posted the letter *yet*.
- b. Has the postman come *yet* ?

In a formal way we can place *yet* in the *mid position*.

1. c. He has not *yet* posted the letter.

2. Still

We use **still** to tell that something is going on longer than we expected. It usually comes in the *mid position* in *question* and *positive statements*, and after the subject in *negative statements* for special emphasis.

2. a. Are you *still* working ?
- b. Is Leela *still* at school ?
- c. Bishnu *still* hasn't finished eating.

3. Already

Already means '*before now*'. We use it in *question* and *affirmative* sentences, but not in *negatives*. It goes in the *mid* or *end position*.

3. a. Has he *already* eaten his lunch ?
- b. They have *already* returned home.
- c. I have posted the letter *already*.

4. No longer, any longer, any more

No longer, and **any longer** suggest that something has come to an end. '*No longer*' has a negative meaning and it goes in the *mid position*. *Any longer / any more* is used at the end of negative statements.

4. a. I *no longer* live in Sundargarh.
- b. I do not live in Bhubaneswar *any longer / any more*.

5. Ago

Ago is usually used in the simple past after the time expression to show how far in the past something happened.

5. a. I met her ten years *ago*.
- b. The accident took place a few minutes *ago*.

6. Never, ever, seldom, scarcely, hardly

6. *Never, scarcely, seldom, hardly, ever* are negative adverbs. They mean 'almost not. These adverbs usually take the *mid position*. Ever is used in *negative* and *question* sentences.

6. a. I have *never* seen Gandhi in my life.
- b. Have you *ever* been to Delhi ?
- c. He has *hardly* done anything useful.
- d. She *seldom* visits us these days.

For emphasis these adverbs can go in the *front position*. In such cases, the *remaining part* of the sentence is formed like a question sentence.

6. e. *Never* did he obey any order.
- f. *Seldom* do we go out these days.

Remember, whenever a negative adverb moves to the front position, the sentence takes the form of a question sentence.

7. Quite, too, so

These are adverbs of degree. They take adjectives or adverbs after them. **So** is more often used in *question* and *negative* sentences.

7. a. Why are you *so* happy ?
- b. The music is *too* loud.
- c. He is *quite* satisfied.

These adverbs do not come after *a/an* unlike many other adverbs. The structure they follow is :

so / too / quite + *adjective* + *a / an* + *noun* or some times *a/an* + *Adj.* + *noun*

7. d. This is *too big a house* for a small family.

(= This is a very big house)

e. An elephant is *quite a big animal*.

(= An elephant is a very big animal)

8. Enough

Unlike other adverbs **enough** is used after the *verbs*, *adjectives* and *adverbs* it modifies.

8. a. You did not run quickly *enough* to catch the train.

(after an adverb)

b. He is smart *enough* to win the prize. (after an adjective)

c. You had not been trained *enough* for the game.

(after the verb)

Activity 9 :

Rewrite the following sentences putting the adverbs italicized at the beginning. The first one is done for you.

1. My friend *rarely* visits movies.

Rarely does my friend visit movies

2. He *seldom* writes to me.

3. I understood *only then* what he meant.

4. They could *nowhere* find a better instructor.

5. I heard about this dreadful news *only today*.

6. My wife *no sooner* got home than it rained.

