

Adjectives and adverbs

A Some adverbs of manner (saying how something is done) are formed from an adjective + -ly: sudden → suddenly, happy → happily, etc. When an adjective already ends in -ly (e.g. cowardly, elderly, friendly, kindly, lively, lonely, lovely) we don't add -ly to it to make an adverb. Instead we can use a prepositional phrase with **fashion, manner, or way**:

- ☐ He smiled at me in a **friendly way**. ☐ She waved her hands around in a **lively fashion**.

Most participle adjectives ending in -ed (see Unit 69) don't have an adverb form and so we use a prepositional phrase instead:

- ☐ They rose to greet me in a **subdued manner**. (*not ...subduedly.*)
☐ He faced the court in a **dignified fashion**. (*not ...dignifiedly.*)

or we use a preposition and a related noun if there is one:

- ☐ She looked at me in **amazement**. (*not ...amazedly.*)
☐ He was overwhelmed **with confusion**. (*not ...confusedly.*)

However, some do have an adverb form with -ly. Compare:

- ☐ The storm was **unexpected**. *and* ☐ The weather turned **unexpectedly** stormy.

Other adverbs like this include **agitatedly, allegedly, deservedly, determinedly, disappointedly, excitedly, hurriedly, pointedly, repeatedly, reportedly, reputedly, supposedly, worriedly**.

B Some adverbs have two forms, one ending in -ly and the other not. We can sometimes use either of the two forms of the adverb without changing the meaning, although the form ending in -ly is grammatically correct and more usual in a formal style:

- ☐ She ran **quick/quickly** towards the door. ('quick' is less formal)

and must be used if the adverb comes immediately before the verb:

- ☐ She **quickly** ran towards the door. (*not* She quick ran...)

Other words like this include **cheap(ly), clean(ly), clear(ly), fine(ly), loud(ly), slow(ly), thin(ly)**.

C In other cases there is a difference in the meaning of the adverb with and without -ly. Compare:

- ☐ She gave her time **free**. (= for no money) *and* She gave her time **freely**. (= willingly)
☐ I arrived **late** for the concert. (= not on time) *and* I haven't seen John **late**ly. (= recently)

Here are some other pairs of adverbs that can have different meanings. Compare:

<input type="checkbox"/> He wandered deep into the forest and got lost. (= a long way)	<input type="checkbox"/> He felt deeply hurt by his criticisms. (= very)
<input type="checkbox"/> 'You don't have to change trains.'	<input type="checkbox"/> They loved each other deeply . (= very much)
<input type="checkbox"/> 'You can go direct .' (= without stopping)	<input type="checkbox"/> I'll be with you directly . (= very soon)
<input type="checkbox"/> It sounded awful – one of the choir members was singing flat .	<input type="checkbox"/> He saw Susan directly ahead. (= straight)
<input type="checkbox"/> He kicked the ball high over the goal.	<input type="checkbox"/> This time I flatly refused to lend him any money. (= definitely; completely)
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Is Bob here yet?' 'He's just arrived.'	<input type="checkbox"/> Everyone thinks highly of her teaching. (= they think her teaching is very good)
<input type="checkbox"/> She looks just like her mother.	<input type="checkbox"/> You can be justly proud of your musical achievements. (= rightly; justifiably)
<input type="checkbox"/> Which of these cheeses do you like most ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Her novels are now mostly out of print. (= most of them)
<input type="checkbox"/> They cut short their holiday when John fell ill. (= went home early)	<input type="checkbox"/> We mostly go on holiday in France. (= usually)
<input type="checkbox"/> The door was wide open so I just went straight in. (= completely)	<input type="checkbox"/> The speaker will be arriving shortly (= soon). Please take your seats.
	<input type="checkbox"/> You won't have any problems getting the book. It's widely available. (= in many places)

- 71.1 Replace the underlined parts of these sentences using the participles below. If possible, use a -ly form. If it is not possible, use either a prepositional phrase or a preposition and a related noun.
(A)
- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| agitated | anticipated | despaired | determined | disappointed |
| organised | relaxed | repeated | reputed | satisfied |
- I warned him again and again of the dangers on the mountain, but he insisted on going ahead with the climb.
 - The class was completely out of control and the teacher put his hands to his head feeling that he could do nothing.
 - As his mother took the roast chicken out of the oven, Rod licked his lips because he was excited about what was going to happen.
 - St Enedoc's is said to be, although no-one knows for certain, the smallest church in the country.
 - 'Still no news from Paul,' she said in a sad way.
 - He ran the company in a calm way and rarely let anything annoy him.
 - She shook her head as if she had made a firm decision.
 - When he had finished the painting, he stepped back and looked at it in a way that showed he was happy.
 - Vicky runs the office carefully and tidily, so I don't think we should change things now.
 - Caroline paced about in an anxious way as she waited to go into the interview.
- 71.2 Use the adverbs discussed in C to complete the sentences. Use the form with -ly in one of the pairs and the form without -ly in the other.
- What she hated was having to get up at 5.30 every morning.
 - We don't go out much in the evening. We watch television.
 - The company paid compensation, but stopped of admitting they were to blame.
 - The book is due to be published
 - I'm not in my office at the moment, but if you leave your name and number I'll get back to you [Message on a telephone answering machine]
 - I used to have to change at Amsterdam to get to Moscow, but now I can fly
 - Even though I got very little sleep on the flight I felt awake when I arrived in Tokyo.
 - French is spoken in North Africa.
 - She is one of the most regarded researchers in the university.
 - We could just see the plane flying overhead.
- 71.3 Find the mistakes and correct them. If there are no mistakes, write ✓. (A-C)
- The rise in car crime in the area is deeply worrying.
 - She waved friendlily to me.
 - Cut the onions up finely and fry them with garlic.
 - I asked the boys to move their bicycles off the football pitch but they flat refused.
 - I couldn't understand what he was saying. He didn't speak very clearly.
 - He was accused of behaving cowardlily in the battle.
 - Pierre Evenne manufactured the glass for which the town became just renowned.
 - I called Jim and he slow turned to face me.
 - Spread some butter on the bread as thin as possible.
 - The prime minister was loud applauded by her audience.

Adjectives and adverbs: comparative and superlative forms

Comparatives: -er vs more/less...than

A We usually add **-er** to one-syllable adjectives and adverbs to make their comparative form. However, we use **more + adjective** -

- ☆ with one-syllable past participle adjectives (see Unit 69) such as **bored, creased, pleased, worn**:
 - ☐ After I'd ironed my shirt it looked **more creased** than before. (*not ...creaseder...*)
 - ☆ with **fun, real, right** and **wrong**:
 - ☐ I expected the film to be rather dull, but I couldn't have been **more wrong**. (*not ...wronger.*)
 - ☆ when we are comparing two qualities:
 - ☐ 'Don't you think Carl was brave to go bungee jumping?' 'Personally, I thought he was **more mad** than brave.'
 - ☐ Although the paint was called 'Sky blue', I thought it was **more green** than blue.
- We can also use '...he wasn't so much *brave* as mad' and '...it was *blue* rather than *green*'.

We can sometimes use **more** as an alternative to the **-er** form to emphasise the comparison:

- ☐ You might think it's dark here but it's **more dark** in the cellar. (*or ...darker...*)

Other adjectives used like this include **clear, cold, fair, rough, soft, true**.

B Some adjectives with two syllables are most commonly used with **more/less**, particularly participle adjectives (e.g. **worried, boring**); adjectives ending in **-ful** and **-less** (e.g. **careful, careless**); **afraid, alert, alike, alone, ashamed, aware**; and some other adjectives, including **active, cautious, certain, complex, direct, eager, exact, formal, frequent, modern, special, recent**. Most two-syllable adjectives ending **-y, -ow, -er** and **-ure** can take either an **-er** or the **more + adjective** form, although the **-er** form is more frequently used.

Some adjectives (such as **complete, equal, favourite, ideal, perfect, unique**) have a comparative or superlative meaning so they are not often used with **-er/-est** or **more/less/most/least**.

However, we can use comparative or superlative forms for special emphasis or for a particular communicative purpose:

- ☐ The weather today was good, but **less perfect** than yesterday.

Superlatives

C We usually use **the**, a possessive form (with **-s**), or a possessive pronoun before a superlative adjective or adverb. In informal contexts we sometimes leave out **the** before an **-est** or **most + adjective** superlative after a linking verb, particularly when the superlative is at the end of a sentence:

- ☐ 'Why did you go by bus?' 'It was (the) **cheapest**.'
- ☐ Which was (the) **most expensive**?

However, we can't leave out **the** when we go on to say what group of things is being compared:

- ☐ 'Why did you buy these oranges?' 'They were **the cheapest ones I could find**.' (*not They were cheapest ones...*)

When **most + adjective/adverb** is used without **the**, **most** means something like 'very':

- ☐ Did you see how she looked at you? It was **most peculiar**. (= very peculiar)
- ☐ I checked the form **most carefully** (= very carefully) but didn't notice the mistake.

D After a superlative we use **of + a plural noun phrase** to name the objects being compared:

- ☐ John's **the oldest** of my three brothers.

Notice that we can put the **of-phrase** at the beginning to emphasise it:

- ☐ **Of my three brothers**, John's **the oldest**.

When we give the location or context within which the comparison is made we usually use **in + a singular noun phrase**:

- ☐ It was **the tallest tree in the forest**. (*not ...the tallest tree of the forest.*)

72.1 Underline the correct or more likely alternative. If both are possible, notice the difference between them. (A)

- 1 It was almost as if the wolf was *more scared/ scareder* of us than we were of it.
- 2 The river was *more deep/ deeper* than I expected so I decided to turn back.
- 3 I think I'd describe her as *more pretty/ prettier* than beautiful.
- 4 He had always seemed unfriendly, but now they were alone he seemed even *more cold/ colder*.
- 5 I bought this tennis racket because it's *more strong/ stronger*.
- 6 As a politician I often receive threats, but some are *more real/ realer* than others.
- 7 There were two routes up the hill, but as we had lots of time we took the *more long/ longer, more winding/ winding* one.
- 8 Sam isn't a bad boy really. He's *more naughty/ naughtier* than dishonest.
- 9 Although a different speaker began to talk, I felt even *more bored/ boreder* than before.
- 10 The exam was *more hard/ harder* than I thought it would be.
- 11 We need to take responsibility for elderly neighbours, and in a cold winter like this it is *more true/ truer* than ever.
- 12 If the critics were wrong about Willis's first novel, they couldn't have been *more right/ righter* about her second.

72.2 Complete the sentences with an appropriate comparative adjective, using an -er or more + adjective form. Indicate where both forms are possible. (B)

alert clever complex dirty exciting pleasant
powerful recent useless wealthy worried

- 1 I may not be much of a cook, but Brian is even in the kitchen than I am.
- 2 Most research in this area uses simple interviews, but we used a methodology.
- 3 I didn't do well at school, and my fellow students all seemed than me.
- 4 The film starts slowly, but gets after the first half hour.
- 5 Neil is already rich, but his aim in life seems to be to become even
- 6 I was concerned when John didn't phone to say he'd be late, but I was even when he didn't come at all that night.
- 7 'This painting is from the 17th century.' 'Really? It looks than that.'
- 8 The walk was quite enjoyable, but if the sun had been shining it would have been
- 9 When I took the washing out of the machine it looked than when it went in.
- 10 For an extra \$500 you could buy a much motorbike.
- 11 Curiously, many people say they feel mentally if they eat very little for a day.

72.3 Put brackets around the if it can be left out in these sentences. (C)

- 1 It was the sweetest orange I'd eaten for ages.
- 2 Ann and Clara were both excellent musicians, but Clara was the most creative.
- 3 He's the fastest runner in his class.
- 4 We get lots of birds in our garden, but blackbirds are the most common.
- 5 'Shall we go by train or car?' 'Well, going by bus is actually the easiest.'

72.4 Complete the sentences with in or of. (D)

- 1 The building is said to be the highest Europe.
- 2 The Democrats are the smallest the four main political parties.
- 3 The hotel enjoys the most spectacular setting any on the south coast.
- 4 For many people, it is the most important day the whole year.
- 5 She's without doubt the best swimmer my school.

Comparative phrases and clauses

A

We use **as + adjective/adverb + as** to say that something or someone is like something or someone else, or that one situation is like another:

- ☐ Was the film **as funny as** his last one? ☐ I came round **as quickly as** I could.

Negative forms of sentences like this can use either **not as** or **not so**. In formal speech and writing it is more common to use **less + adjective + than**:

- ☐ The gap between the sides is **not as/so wide as** it was. (*or ...is less wide than it was.*)

B

If we put a singular countable noun between an adjective and the second **as**, we use **a/an** in front of the noun:

- ☐ Despite his disability, he tried to lead **as normal a life as possible**. (*not ...as normal life as...*)
☐ She was **as patient a teacher as** anyone could have had. (*not ...as patient teacher as...*)

The negative form of sentences like this can use either **not as** or sometimes **not such**:

- ☐ It's **not as quiet a place** (*or ...not such a quiet place ...*) as it used to be.

Notice that we use **not as + adjective + a/an + noun** but **not such a/an + adjective + noun**.

We can use **how**, **so** and **too** followed by an adjective in a similar way:

- ☐ **How significant** a role did he play in your life?
☐ It's **not quite so straightforward a problem as** it might at first seem.
☐ 'Conspiracy' is perhaps **too strong a word**. ☐ **How big** a piece do you want?

C

We also use **as much/many as** or **as little/few as** to say that a quantity or amount is larger or smaller than expected. **Many** and **few** are preferred before numbers; **much** and **little** are preferred with amounts (e.g. \$5, 20%) and distances (e.g. 3 metres):

- ☐ There are a small number of people involved, possibly **as few as** twenty.
☐ Prices have increased by **as much as** 300 per cent.

D

We can use **not + adjective/adverb + enough + to-infinitive** to mean that there isn't as much as is necessary to do something:

- ☐ I'm **not tall enough to reach**. ☐ He didn't speak **loudly enough to be heard**.

We can use **sufficiently** before adjectives to express a similar meaning to **enough**. **Sufficiently** is often preferred in more formal contexts:

- ☐ She didn't play **sufficiently well to qualify**. (*or ...well enough to qualify.*)

E

We can use **too + adjective/adverb + to-infinitive** to mean 'more than necessary, possible, etc.' to do something:

- ☐ They arrived **too late to get** seats. ☐ It moved **too fast to see** it clearly.

If we need to mention the things or people involved in the action, we do this with **for...**:

- ☐ The suitcase was **too small (for him) to get** all his clothes in.

In rather formal English we can use **too + adjective + a/an + noun**:

- ☐ I hope you haven't had **too tiring a day**. (*not ...a too tiring day.*)

(In a less formal style we might say 'I hope your day hasn't been too tiring.')

F

We can use **so + adjective/adverb + that-clause** to say that something existed or happened to such a degree that a specified result occurred (see also Unit 81):

- ☐ It's **so simple that** even I can do it. ☐ He came in **so quietly that** I didn't hear him.

Less often we use **so + adjective/adverb + as + to-infinitive** with a similar meaning. Compare:

- ☐ The difference was **so small that** it wasn't worth arguing about. *and*
☐ The difference was **so small as to not be** worth arguing about. (= Because the difference was so small, it wasn't worth arguing about)

We can use **so/as far as + to-infinitive** to talk about actions that are surprising or extreme:

- ☐ One furious woman went **so/as far as to throw** tomatoes at the minister.

73.1 Complete these sentences with *as...as* or *not as/such...as*. Sometimes two answers are possible. Use the words in brackets and add any other necessary words. (B)

- 1 It's not such a polluted city now as/not as polluted a city now as it was 10 years ago. (*not/ polluted/ city now*)
- 2 The Downtown Hotel is Strand Hotel. (*not/ pleasant/ place to stay*)
- 3 The President's address to the nation is he is ever likely to make in his career. (*important/ speech*)
- 4 It was I first thought. (*not/ big/ problem*)
- 5 Theresa's dog is I've ever seen. (*ferocious/ animal*)
- 6 She's she claims to be. (*not/ fluent/ Greek speaker*)

73.2 Complete these sentences with *as much as*, *as many as*, *as little as*, or *as few as*. (C)

- 1 When it was really hot I was having four showers a day.
- 2 The elephant population may soon fall to 1,000 from 5,000 10 years ago.
- 3 At the end of the 200-metre race there was 50 metres between the first and second runners.
- 4 5,000 people phoned in to complain about last night's TV programme.
- 5 Lit continuously, the life of a light bulb varies from two weeks to three months.
- 6 Some days there were three or four students at his lectures.
- 7 We don't use much electricity. Sometimes our bill is £20 a month.
- 8 The country spends 25% of its income on defence.

73.3 Match the sentences to make ones using *so* + adjective + *as* + to-infinitive, as in 1. (F)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 The noise from the factory was loud. | a It was nearly illegible. |
| 2 Her handwriting was untidy. | b It was insignificant. |
| 3 The bookcase was heavy. | c It was unplayable. |
| 4 The CD was badly scratched. | d It prevented me sleeping. |
| 5 The plot of the novel was complicated. | e It was almost impossible to move it. |
| 6 The difference between the results was small. | f It was completely incomprehensible. |
- 1+d The noise from the factory was so loud as to prevent me sleeping.

73.4 Here is part of an interview with the manager of a football team. His best player, Alan Green, has just suffered a serious injury. Correct any mistakes in the underlined text. (A-F)

INTERVIEWER: (1) How serious injury is it? Is it (2) so serious as has been claimed in the newspapers? Some people are saying Alan Green will never play international football again.

MANAGER: Well, it's certainly (3) enough bad to keep him out of football for at least 6 months. He's obviously (4) not so fit as he used to be and even he would admit that he's (5) not such good player as he was in his 20s. But I wouldn't (6) go so far to say that he'll never play for the national team again. I know him (7) sufficiently well enough to say that he will consider his future carefully before making any major decisions.

INTERVIEWER: Well, we all wish him (8) as speedy recovery as possible...



Position of adverbs (1)

- A** There are three main positions for adverbs which modify a verb: *end*, *front* and *mid* position.
- ☆ In *end position*, the adverb is placed after the verb – either immediately after it or later in the clause:
 - ☐ They *played* quietly all day. ☐ He *tried to leave* quietly. ☐ He *sat* in the corner quietly.
 - ☆ In *front position* the adverb is placed before the subject:
 - ☐ **Finally** he could stand the noise no longer. ☐ **Sometimes** I feel like going home.
 - ☆ In *mid position* the adverb is placed between the subject and verb, immediately after *be* as a main verb, or after the first auxiliary verb:
 - ☐ He **usually** plays better than this. ☐ She **is usually** here by 10.00.
 - ☐ They **would usually** come by car.

Many adverbs can go in any of these positions, depending on context or style. For example:

- ☐ He turned round **slowly**. (*end*) ☐ **Slowly** he turned round. (*front*)
- ☐ He **slowly** turned round. (*mid*)

End position

- B** In end position, we usually put an adverb *after* an object if there is one rather than immediately after the verb:
- ☐ We considered *the problem* briefly. (*not* We considered briefly the problem.)
- However, if an object is very long other positions are possible:
- ☐ We considered **briefly** *the long-term solution to the problem*. (*or* We **briefly** considered...)

- C** We avoid putting an adverb between a main verb and a following *-ing* form or *to-infinitive*:
- ☐ He began running **quickly**. *or* He **quickly** began running. (*not* He began quickly running.)
 - ☐ She tried to leave **quietly**. *or* She **quietly** tried to leave. (*not* She tried quietly to leave.)
- The position of the adverb can change the meaning of the sentence (see Unit 75A). Compare:
- ☐ I recall telling him **clearly** that he had won. (= I told him clearly; 'clearly' modifies 'telling him') *and*
 - ☐ I **clearly** recall telling him that he had won. (= I clearly recall it; 'clearly' modifies 'recall'.)

'I recall **clearly** telling him that he had won' is also possible, but is ambiguous; it can have either of the two meanings given above. In speech, the meaning intended is usually signalled by intonation.

- D** When there is more than one adverbial (see Glossary) in end position, the usual order in written English is *adverbial of manner* (= saying *how* something is done), *place*, and then *time*:
- ☐ In the accident she was thrown **violently forwards**. (= manner + place)
 - ☐ We arrived **here on Saturday**. (= place + time)
- For special emphasis we can move an adverbial to the end:
- ☐ In the accident she was thrown **forwards, violently**.

If one adverbial is much longer than another then it is usually placed last:

- ☐ They left at 3.00 **with a great deal of noise**. (= time + manner)

An adverb usually comes before a prepositional phrase when these have the same function (i.e. when they both describe manner, or place, or time):

- ☐ She went **downstairs to the cellar**. (= place + place)

- E** End position is usual for many adverbials of *place*, *definite frequency*, and *definite time* (including adverbial prepositional phrases):
- ☐ They live **upstairs**. (*not* They upstairs live.) ☐ She goes **weekly**. (*not* She weekly goes.)
 - ☐ Have you heard the good news? Jane had a baby **in May**. (*not* Jane in May had a baby.)
- However, adverbs of indefinite time usually go in mid position (see Unit 75).
- Notice that in journalism, other adverbs of time are often used in mid position, where we would normally place them in end (or front) position:
- ☐ The government **yesterday** announced an increase in education spending.

74.1 Write the adverb in brackets in the sentence in an appropriate position. In some cases both positions are possible. (C)

- 1 I _____ expect Sue to win the race _____. (*easily*)
- 2 He _____ regretted missing the concert _____. (*greatly*)
- 3 I _____ hated playing the piano _____, although my parents thought I loved it. (*secretly*)
- 4 He _____ started to walk _____ across the bridge over the gorge. (*calmly*)
- 5 She _____ offered to do the work _____. (*kindly*)
- 6 Ray _____ finished speaking _____ and sat down. (*hurriedly*)
- 7 I _____ don't remember putting it down _____. (*simply*)
- 8 We _____ look forward to hearing from you _____. (*soon*)
- 9 They _____ tried to ignore me _____. (*deliberately*)
- 10 I don't _____ pretend to understand the instructions _____. (*completely*)

74.2 Complete the sentences. Put the words and phrases in brackets in the most likely order for written English. (B & D)

- 1 He hid Nancy's present in the wardrobe. (*in the wardrobe/ present*)
- 2 She waited _____. (*nervously/ until her name was called*)
- 3 The road climbed _____. (*through the mountains/ steeply*)
- 4 As a punishment, she had to be at school _____. (*for the next two weeks/ early*)
- 5 As I left, I locked _____. (*the door/ securely*)
- 6 We're travelling _____. (*during the summer/ around Australia*)
- 7 The house is by the river, just _____. (*from the bridge/ downstream*)
- 8 She was able to describe _____. (*the exact details of the house where she had lived as a baby/ accurately*)
- 9 In hospital she had to lie _____. (*with her right leg suspended in mid air/ for a week*)
- 10 He swam _____ and then got out of the pool. (*rapidly/ for a few minutes*)
- 11 If you leave now, you should be _____. (*by nine o'clock/ at home*)
- 12 They enjoyed _____. (*at the party/ themselves/ immensely*)

74.3 If necessary, improve these sentences by putting the italicised word or phrase in a more appropriate position. If no improvement is needed, write ✓. (B-E)

- 1 I try to visit *every week* my parents. I try to visit my parents every week. or Every week I try to visit my parents.
- 2 Next, beat the eggs *vigorously* in a small bowl.
- 3 I thought I'd locked *securely* the luggage.
- 4 I stopped *regularly* playing tennis after I broke my wrist.
- 5 Rafter was *easily* beaten in the final.
- 6 Sarah never eats in the canteen at work. She always brings *from home* sandwiches.
- 7 'Do the Simpson family still live next door?' 'No, they moved last year *away*.'
- 8 The local residents welcomed the decision to introduce a new bus service from their village into the nearby town *warmly*.
- 9 We have to hand the homework in *on Tuesday*.

Position of adverbs (2)

Front position

- A** Most types of adverb commonly go in front position in a clause (see Unit 74A). In particular –
- ☆ *connecting adverbs* (e.g. **as a result, similarly**) which make immediately clear the logical relation to the previous sentence:
 - The value of the yen has fallen. **As a result**, Japan faces a crisis.
 - ☆ *time and place adverbs* (e.g. **tomorrow, nearby**) which give more information about a previous reference to a time or place, or show a contrast:
 - The last few days have been hot. **Tomorrow** the weather will be much cooler.
 - ☆ *comment and viewpoint adverbs* (e.g. **presumably, financially**) which highlight the speaker's attitude to what they are about to say (see Unit 78):
 - She has just heard that her sister is ill. **Presumably**, she will want to go home.

However, other positions are possible for these adverbs.

Some words can be used both as comment adverbs or adverbs of manner. As comment adverbs they usually go in front position (but can go in other positions) and relate to the whole of the clause; as adverbs of manner they usually go in end position and modify the verb. Compare:

- **Naturally**, I'll do all I can to help. and □ The gas *occurs* **naturally** in this area.

Other adverbs like this include **clearly, curiously, frankly, honestly, oddly, plainly, seriously**.

Note that for special emphasis or focus, adverbs that usually go in mid position (see B) and end position (see also Units 74 and 76) can sometimes be put in front position:

- **In May**, Jane had a baby. □ **Regularly**, Kim works on several paintings at once.

Mid position

- B** The following types of adverb usually go in mid position (see Unit 74A) –
- ☆ *degree adverbs* (e.g. **almost, hardly, nearly, quite, rather, scarcely**):
 - The street lighting was so bad that *we* **almost** *missed* the turning.
 although some (e.g. **completely, enormously, entirely, greatly, slightly**) can go in end position:
 - I **greatly** *admire* your work. (or I *admire* your work **greatly**.)
- Notice, however, that some degree adverbs are not usually used in mid position with some verbs. For example, **enormously** is not usually used in mid position with **develop, differ, go up** or **vary**; **greatly** is not normally used in mid position with **care** or **suffer**.
- ☆ *adverbs which indicate the order of events*, such as **first, last** and **next**. These can also go in end position, but if there is a phrase giving the time of an event they usually go before this:
 - I **first** *met* her in 1987. (or I *met* her **first** in 1987.)
 We don't usually put these in front position, except when we use them to list actions (when we usually follow them with a comma in writing; see also Unit 76B):
 - **Next**, add three teaspoons of sugar.
 - ☆ *adverbs of frequency* which say in an indefinite way how often something happens, including **hardly ever, often, rarely, regularly, seldom** (see also Unit 76B); and also the frequency adverbs **always** and **never**:
 - We **hardly ever** *see* Derek nowadays, he's so busy at the office.
- Notice, however, that adverbial phrases of indefinite frequency (e.g. **as a rule, on many occasions, from time to time, every so often**) usually go in front or end position:
- **As a rule**, I go every six months. (or every six months, **as a rule**; not 'I as a rule go...')

- C** We rarely put long adverbials (including clauses (see Units 58 and 59), and prepositional and noun phrases) in mid position. Usually they go in end position or front position for emphasis:
- She phoned home, **anxious for news**. (or **Anxious for news**, she phoned home.)
 - He picked up the vase **with great care**. (or **With great care** he picked up the vase.)
 - I'd seen Jack **the day before**. (or **The day before** I'd seen Jack.)

75.1 Use one of these adverbs in each pair of sentences. In one, add the adverb in front position (as a comment adverb); in the other, add the adverb in end position (as an adverb of manner). (A)

clearly ~~curiously~~ frankly honestly plainly seriously

- 1 a Curiously, the house has three chimneys _____, even though there are only two fireplaces.
b _____, Esther looked at him curiously, trying to work out whether he was being serious or not.
- 2 a _____, I was brought up to earn money _____, not to steal it from others.
b _____, I'm perfectly capable of putting up the shelf myself _____.
- 3 a _____, she admitted _____ that she felt she wasn't doing a good job.
b _____ I went to sleep during his lecture _____, it was so boring.
- 4 a 'Thanks for looking after the children for me.' 'That's okay.' '_____, I don't know what I'd have done _____ if you hadn't been around to help.'
b _____, I tried to speak _____ to him about his bad behaviour, but he kept making me laugh.
- 5 a The chief executive of Eclom has phoned me every day this week to ask whether I've made my mind up. _____, he wants me to take the job _____.
b _____, I'd had very little sleep the night before and was having difficulty thinking _____.
- 6 a Robert fidgeted in his seat and kept looking nervously at the door. _____, he was feeling ill at ease _____.
b _____ she always dressed _____ at work in a white blouse and grey skirt.

75.2 Cross out any adverbs or adverbials that are incorrect or unlikely in these sentences. (B & Unit 74E)

- 1 Asthma rates in cities do not *enormously/ significantly* differ from those in rural areas.
- 2 Now that Megan has moved to Liverpool, I *from time to time/ rarely* see her.
- 3 I could see them *easily/ scarcely* in the bright sunshine.
- 4 It was snowing and I was *almost/ by an hour* late for the interview.
- 5 I met Mick at a party and then saw him a couple of days later *next/ at the bus stop on College Road*.
- 6 Carmen had *often/ on many occasions* spoken at meetings before so it was no surprise when she stood up.
- 7 I play chess with Tim *hardly ever/ every week*.
- 8 Although he had to lift heavy boxes in the factory, he *greatly/ rarely* suffered from backache.
- 9 I forgot about the meeting *nearly/ entirely* and my boss was really angry with me.

75.3 Which of the positions indicated [1], [2] or [3] can the adverb or adverbial in brackets go in? (A-C)

- 1 [1] He [2] moved to New Zealand [3]. (*the following year*)
- 2 [1] The children [2] walked along the road [3]. (*in single file*)
- 3 [1] We [2] see Tom [3] any more. (*seldom*)
- 4 [1] He [2] complained to his physics teacher [3]. (*unhappy with the result*)
- 5 [1] I [2] agree with you [3]. (*entirely*)
- 6 [1] I [2] meet [3] Emma at school. (*often*)