

Position of adverbs: adverbs of place,time,frequency ,expectation, focus

Position of adverbs:

We usually put adverbs immediately before the adjectives and adverbs they modify.

- 1- It's **nearly** complete / Is it **politically** correct? / She did it **fairly** easily / He spoke **very** quietly.

when we use adverbs to modify verbs and sentences ,we can put them in front or end position of the clause or sentences (2) . We can also put adverbs in mid position after be or an auxiliary verb (3) and before the main verb (4).

- 2- **Usually** I have a piece of toast and orange juice in the morning. I might have a snack **later**.
- 3- Some people are **always** hungry when they wake up /I've **never** wanted to eat breakfast in bed.
- 4- I **really** prefer to wait a while before eating / I **sometimes** drink coffee.

Note that we don't put adverbs between a verb and its object (NOT I drink sometimes coffee).

Adverbs of place and time : nearby, tomorrow ...

We use adverbs of place such as nearly and upstairs to add information on location or direction (5), usually in end position ,and before adverbs of time such as recently and tomorrow (6).

- 5- He waited **nearby** while she took the money and went **upstairs** / I slipped and fell **backwards**.
- 6- You must leave **here immediately** / I'll be **there tomorrow** /I haven't been **abroad recently**.

Adverbs of frequency : annually ,usually...

We usually put adverbs of definite frequency such as annually ,dailyand twice in end position (7) and adverbs of indefinite frequency such as ever ,often and usually in mid position (8).

- 7- The contract is renewed **annually** / Rooms are cleaned **daily** / I've seen this film **twice**.
- 8- We **often** have to work late / it's **usually** rains in the evening / Doesn't he **ever** study?

Expectation adverbs : already ,still ...

We use expectation adverbs to express connection between events and expectation .we use already to indicate that an event is earlier than expected, usually in mid or end position .

- 9- His plane has **already** arrived. MrsBlack had left **already** (NOT already Mrs Black had left)

We use still to say that something is going on longer than expected ,usually in mid position

- 10- We are **still** waiting /I **still** bite my nails when I'm nervous. Ford **still** avoids crowds.

We use no longer and not... any longer / more when an event was expected to continue ,but did not .

We usually put them in mid or end position (11) .when we put no longer in front position (12) we must use inversion (the auxiliary verb before the subject)

- 11- It **no longer** works/ We could **not** stay there **any longer** / she **doesn't** live here **any more**.

- 12- **No longer** do the fishing boats come in large groups to loch fine for the herring season.

We use yet (meaning “up to now”) to show that an event is or was expected .we usually put yet at the end of questions ,negatives and expressions of uncertainly.

- 13- Have you read it **yet**? / classes haven't started **yet** / I'm not sure if he's finished **yet**.

Focus adverbs: even ,just,only

We use the focus adverbs even just and only to draw attention to one part of the sentence.

- 14- She was **only** joking /he can't even swim / her research isn't just about English.

We can change the focus and the meaning when we change the position of these adverbs

15- Mark **only** works here on Fridays (= only Fridays, not other days)

Only Mark works here on Friday (=only Mark , not other people).

Exercises:

Rewrite these sentences with the adverbs in more appropriate positions .

1/ We thought we had started early our hike, but already other people had left the campsite.

.....

2/ The workers get paid usually weekly, but they haven't been yet paid for last week.

.....

3/ Still the students hadn't completed all their work when they had to leave yesterday here.

.....

4/ Alice lived recently here, but she doesn't live any more.

.....

5/We used to hear hardly ever them, but they've become lately noisy really.

.....

Add these adverbs to this text.

Always, ever , no longer , only , outside , recently , sometimes , today , twice , yet .

Actress and model Viviane Tavenard is (1)the centre of attention wherever she goes and her appearance in a London boutique this morning was no exception. But her big smile isn't (2) for the crowd of photographers waiting (3) (4)

She's enjoying her life these days and is (5) concerned about old romances or bad reviews.

Tavenard has won the best actress award (6)..... But that hasn't stopped her from working on new and (7) unusual films.

"This is an excellent time" she said (8) in an interview with celebrity life magazine . " I think that my life is the best it's (9) been".

The good news for all you Viviane Tavenard fans is that you may not have seen her best work (10).....

Using a dictionary if necessary, rewrite each of the sentences with one of these adverbs instead of just , plus any other necessary changes.

Almost, exactly , now , only (*2) , simply , very recently.

Example: they just weren't paying attention → they simply weren't paying attention.

- 1/ The couple had just got married.→.....
- 2/ The baby looks just like her mother .→.....
- 3/ He isn't just an athlete , he's a scholar too ! →.....
- 4/ Wait for us , we're just coming .→.....
- 5/ Lunch is just about ready .→.....
- 6/ Wear this silly hat .It's just for fun.→.....