

Word order 2: adverbs with the verb

A

Some adverbs (for example, **always**, **also**, **probably**) go with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- ☐ Helen **always drives** to work.
- ☐ We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- ☐ The concert **will probably be cancelled**.

B

If the verb is one word (**drives/fell/cooked** etc.), the adverb goes *before* the verb:

	adverb	verb	
Helen	always	drives	to work.
I	almost	fell	as I was going down the stairs.

- ☐ I cleaned the house and **also cooked** the dinner. (*not* cooked also)
- ☐ Lucy **hardly ever watches** television and **rarely reads** newspapers.
- ☐ 'Shall I give you my address?' 'No, I **already have** it.'

Note that these adverbs (**always/often/also** etc.) go before **have to** ... :

- ☐ Joe never phones me. I **always have to** phone him. (*not* I have always to phone)

But adverbs go *after* **am/is/are/was/were**:

- ☐ We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- ☐ Why are you always late? You're **never** on time.
- ☐ The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

C

If the verb is two or more words (for example, **can remember / doesn't eat / will be cancelled**), the adverb usually goes *after the first verb* (**can/doesn't/will** etc.):

	verb 1	adverb	verb 2	
I	can	never	remember	her name.
Clare	doesn't	often	eat	meat.
	Are you	definitely	going	away next week?
The concert	will	probably	be	cancelled.

- ☐ You've **always been** very kind to me.
- ☐ Jack can't cook. He **can't even boil** an egg.
- ☐ **Do you still work** for the same company?
- ☐ The house **was only built** a year ago and it's **already falling** down.

Note that **probably** goes before a negative (**isn't/won't** etc.). So we say:

- ☐ I **probably won't see** you. *or* I will **probably not see** you. (*not* I won't probably)

D

We also use **all** and **both** in these positions:

- ☐ We **all felt** ill after the meal. (*not* we felt all ill)
- ☐ My parents **are both** teachers. (*not* my parents both are teachers)
- ☐ Sarah and Jane **have both applied** for the job.
- ☐ We **are all going** out tonight.

E

Sometimes we use **is/will/did** etc. instead of repeating part of a sentence (see Unit 51):

- ☐ Tom says he isn't clever, but I think he **is**. (= he **is clever**)

When we do this, we put **always/never** etc. *before* the verb:

- ☐ He always says he won't be late, but he **always is**. (= he **is always** late)
- ☐ I've never done it and I **never will**. (= I **will never** do it)