

# Adverb Phrases

GRAMMAR

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2041G\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

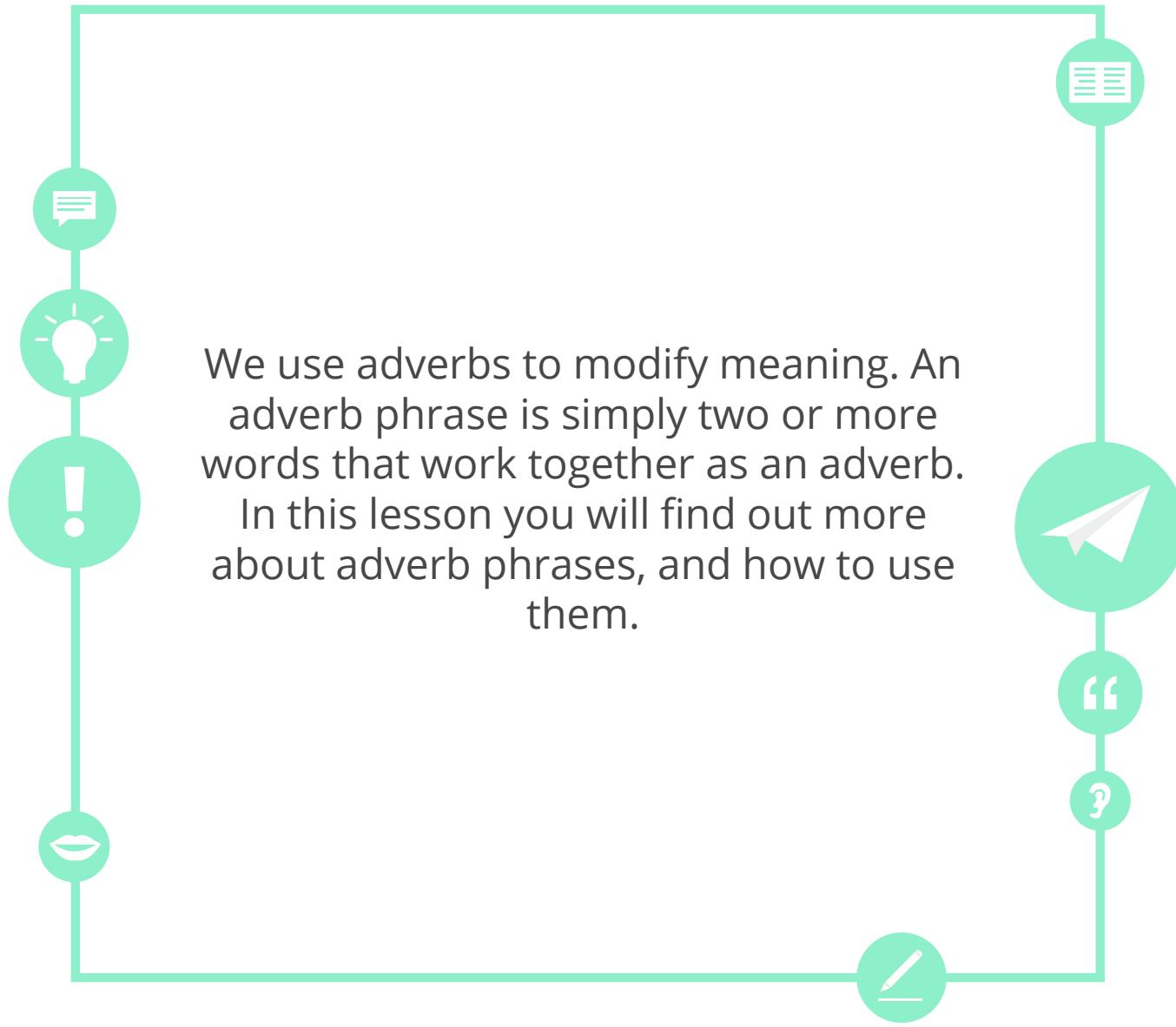




## Goals

- Can recognise and explain what adverb phrases are.
- Can use adverbs of manner and frequency to modify adjectives and adverbs to express a more complex idea clearly.







## Reviewing adverbs

- We use adverbs to modify the meaning of verbs, adjectives, clauses and other adverbs.
- Adverbs help us express place, time, frequency, and the manner of an action.



She looked **quickly** on the table but the keys were not there. They must be **somewhere** in the house, she thought. **Often** she had this same problem: She could never remember where she had left her keys. It was a nightmare!

“

## What is an adverb phrase?

An adverb phrase is simply two or more words that work together as an adverb.

- He **almost never** comes to parties, he feels awkward and doesn't enjoy having to talk to people he doesn't know well.
- She fled from the scene of the crime **as fast as the wind**.





## Adverb phrases

Adverb phrases can help us answer questions about **how**, **when**, **why** and **where**?

<b>How?</b>	He moved very slowly, <b>like a snail</b> .
<b>When?</b>	You can come to visit me <b>any time</b> .
<b>Why?</b>	I reminded John about the party, <b>in case he forgets</b> .
<b>Where?</b>	It's on the corner, <b>just over the bridge</b> .

“

## Adverb phrases – other uses

We can also use adverb phrases to express **certainty** or **necessity**, to give **a point of view**, or to help **evaluate** something.



The meeting will **more than likely** be conducted in English. **Unfortunately for me**, I cannot speak Japanese. **Just personally**, I think our employer should pay for language lessons. We travel to Japan a lot for business and it would be nice to be able to communicate better.



## Revising adverbs

With your teacher see how many different adverbs you can think of for each category below. Can you think of at least 10 for each? An example is given on each card to start you off.



**How?**  
happily

**When?**  
yesterday

**Extent?**  
very

**Where?**  
underground



## Build your own phrases

Take the two lists of adverbs you made for how? and extent? from the last activity. See which ones go together - these are adverb phrases which describe manner in detail.

adverb: extent

very

quite

adverb: how

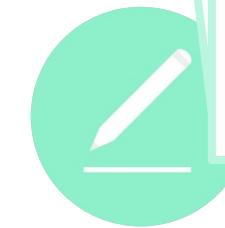
happily

quickly

**adverb phrase**

very quickly

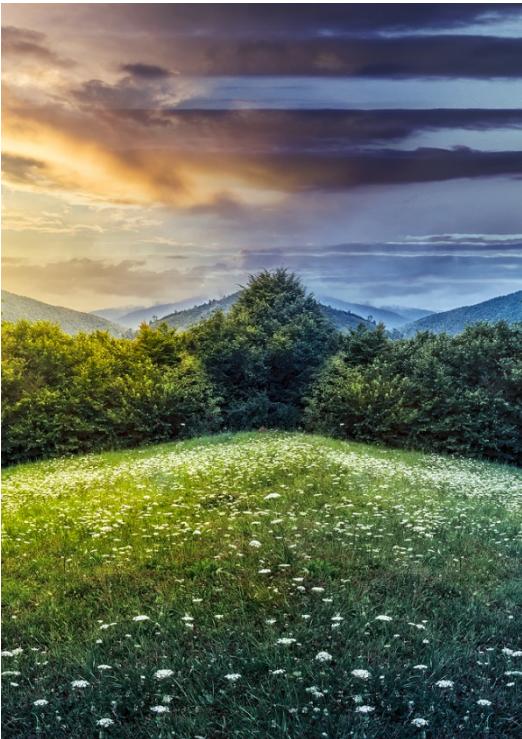
quite happily





## Using adverb phrases

Can you answer these questions using an adverb phrase?



The train was cancelled so when did you get to work?

How does traffic move in a traffic jam?

How often do you go to the cinema?

Will it be cold in Russia in winter?

Why won't he be at the wedding?

Was their trip fun?

What do you think about the election results?

How fast did the half price computers sell?

Did you enjoy the opera?



## Using adverb phrases

Look at the sentences below. Think of the adverb phrases you found in the previous slide. Can you now add an adverb phrase to these sentences?



It will be cold in Moscow in December.

The cars were moving.

The computers had disappeared.

Their trip went well.

I am surprised.

He cannot attend because he is ill.

She sang the aria.

My sister got to work.

I go to the cinema.

“

## Using adverb phrases to modify verbs

- The most common way we use adverb phrases is to modify verbs.
- In the examples below, each adverb phrase explains something about the verb.

- I see my cousin **only occasionally**.
- I visit the doctor **very regularly**.
- I go to the cinema **quite often**.

If you ask how often do you **see** your cousin, **visit** the doctor or **go** to the cinema, the answer is an adverb phrase each time.



“

## Using adverb phrases to modify verbs

- We also use adverb phrases to modify the verb **to be**.
- Often these adverb phrases include adverbs of **place**.

### Examples of adverb phrases

The post office is *over there*, by the bank.

It's ok, the keys are *right here* in my pocket.

She's *across the street* at the moment, can I take a message?

We're *over here*, can't you see us?



“

## Using adverb phrases to modify adjectives and adverbs

We also use adverb phrases to modify **adjectives** and **adverbs**.

They have been **very happily** married for 10 years.

- **Very happily** describes how they are **married**.

He was running fast, **like the wind**.

- **Like the wind** describes how **fast** he was running.

Laura opened the box **hastily**, but **quite carefully**.

- **Quite carefully** describes the **hastiness** with which Laura opens the box.

## similes and adverb phrases

A **simile** is a form of comparison using **like** or **as**. Similes often function as **adverb phrases** since similes usually explain **how** something has been done.



Although Naomi was terrified, she acted as bravely **as a lion**.



## Discuss the sentence

**Examine the following sentences. Identify the adverb phrases along with what each adverb phrase is modifying in the sentence – verb, adjective or adverb? What is the purpose of each adverb phrase?**

1. Your book is just over there, by that armchair.
2. I woke up this morning at the crack of dawn.
3. Barely anybody we know showed up at the party last night.
4. Mark opened his present surprisingly cautiously.
5. More often than not, Luke is too tired to go for a walk after work.



## Discuss the sentence

**Examine the following sentences. Identify the adverb phrases along with what each adverb phrase is modifying in the sentence – verb, adjective or adverb? What is the purpose of each adverb phrase?**

6. Mary moves around particularly carefully since the accident happened.
7. Jenny tends to eat messily, like a happy pig.
8. This laptop performs rather well for the price!
9. Carrie trod softly across the carpet, quiet as a mouse.
10. It was with great regret that they sent their letter of complaint.



## Using adverb phrases

Look at the adverb phrases on the cards below.  
Can you use each one in a sentence?



over there

right here

really easily



almost never

awfully slowly

in silence



quite  
meticulously

extremely  
slowly

with great  
regret



## Talking about your habits

Look at the topics on the cards below. Using adverb phrases describe your habits to your teacher. Talk about when and how often you do, or don't do, certain activities. Use as many different adverb phrases as you can!

eating and  
drinking

communication  
with friends and  
family

exercise

leisure pursuits



## Similes and adverb phrases

Use the images below to help you think of some similes that could be used as adverb phrases.



like



as



## Storytelling

**Look at the pictures below. Can you invent a story about each picture?  
Use an adverb phrase from any of the previous slides in the first sentence of each story and use more adverb phrases throughout your narrative.**



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## Using adverb phrases

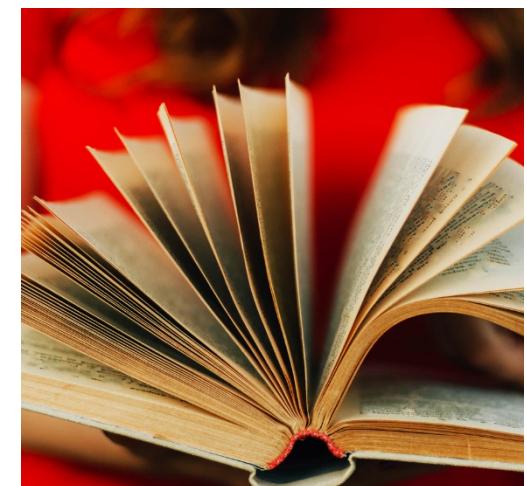
Some adverb phrases are useful ways to express that a feeling or mood is not especially strong.

*I sort of feel like staying home tonight, I'm tired.*

*I kind of liked the book, but it wasn't brilliant.*

*Bernard is right, to some extent.*

*They only vaguely understood, but I think they were still upset.*



“

## Useful adverb phrases

- We use adverb phrases very often in English. At an advanced level it's a great idea to incorporate more adverb phrases into your English. There are some useful examples below.

- **After a while** you will get used to wearing glasses.
- **Before she knew it** she was managing the whole shop.
- **Surprisingly enough** he tidied his room just as he'd been asked to do.
- It's important to get this job done **by any means possible**.



## quite + noun phrase

Adverb phrases can be used to modify other phrases, such as noun phrases and prepositional phrases. The adverb **quite** in English can be used to express the idea that there is something **special** or **significant** about something. It's a more informal type of speech.



That's **quite a drop**, make sure you don't stand too close to the edge!



That's **quite the outfit**, isn't it!



## Over to you

**Can you respond to the situations below using adverb phrases?  
What would you say in response?**

Your friend wants to go to France on holiday. You would prefer Spain.

Your sister asks what you thought of a film you saw last night.

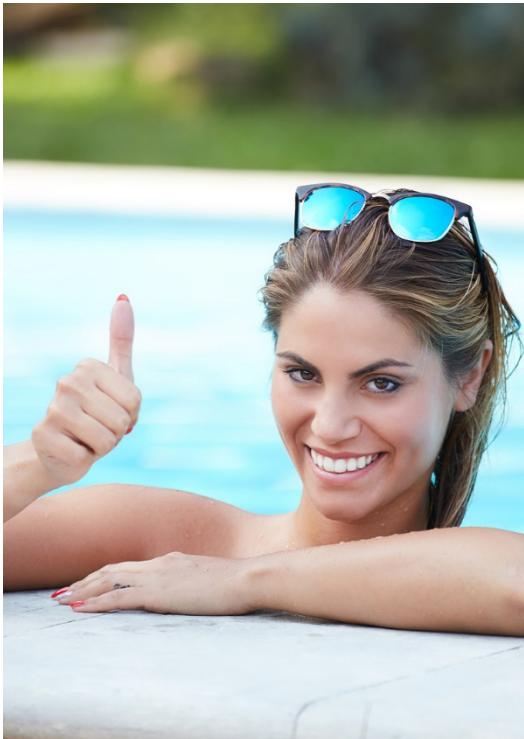
Your boss asks how the intern did in the assignment he was set.

Your dad asks if it was cold during your trip to Russia, but it was sunny.



## Practice time

Can you make a sentence with each of these adverb phrases?



quite slowly

like a snail

surprisingly well

sort of

to some extent

as quietly as possible

kind of

very sadly

after a while



## Telling a story

In this class you have learnt a lot of new adverb phrases. Now think of your favourite fairytale, try to retell the story to your teacher using as many adverb phrases as you can!



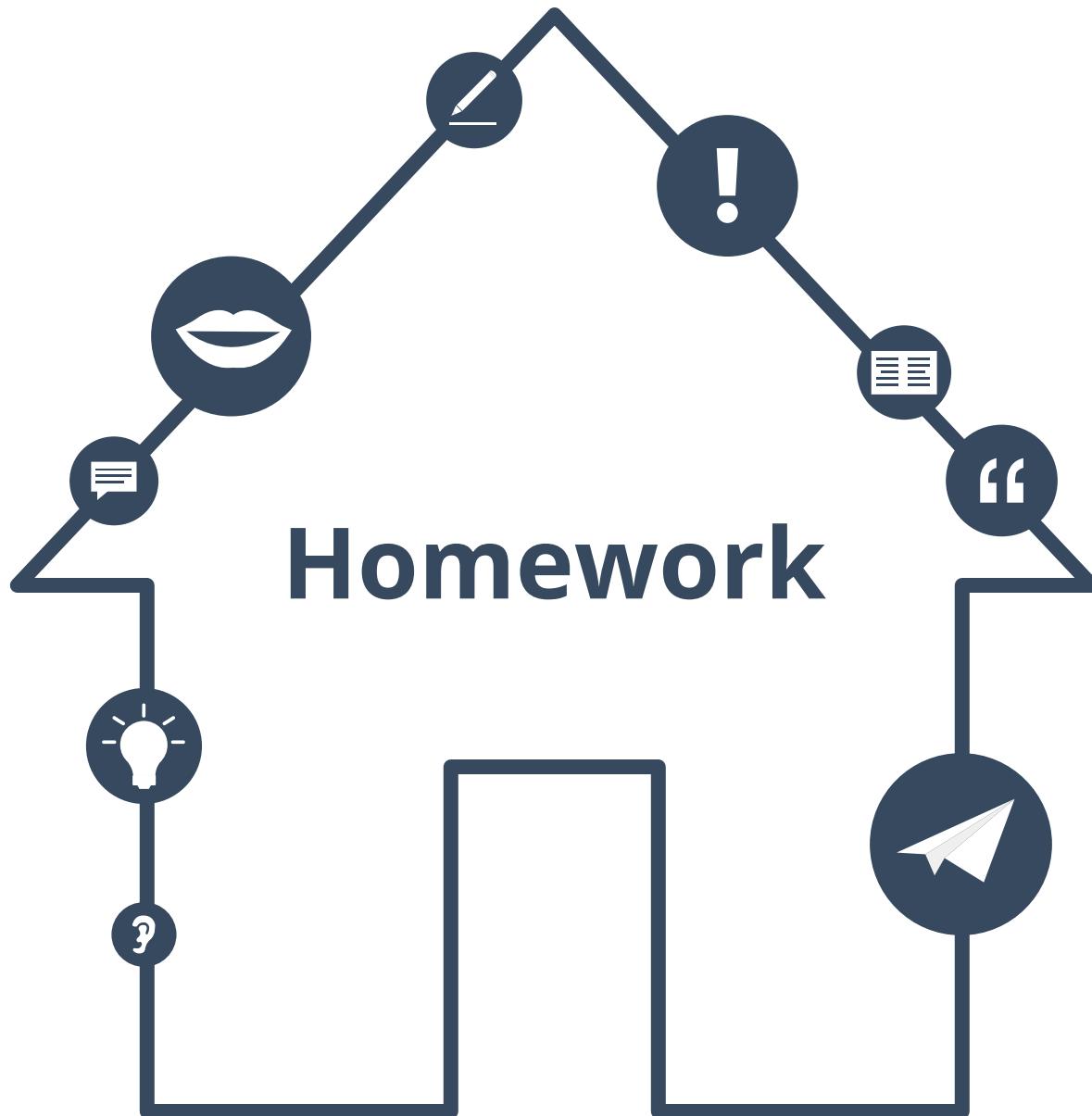


## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







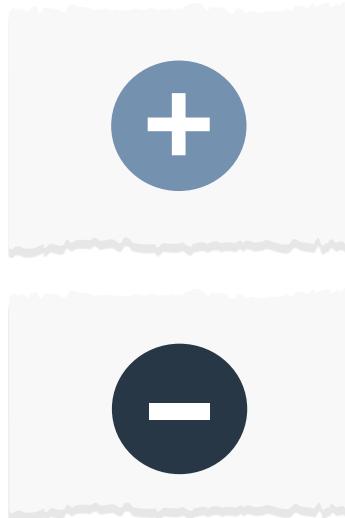
## Practice time

Pick your favourite adverb phrases from this class, or create some of your own, and write 15 sentences using adverb phrases. Be as creative as you can be!




## Homework evaluation activity

Which parts of this lesson did you find most challenging, and which were easiest? Which parts did you enjoy the most, and the least? Give your feedback here.



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