

UNIT 5 : Getting to Know Mobile Devices

What is a Mobile Device?

A mobile device is basically any **handheld computer**. It is designed to be extremely portable, often fitting in the palm of your hand or in your pocket. Some mobile devices are more powerful, and they allow you to do many of the same things you can do with a desktop or laptop computer. These include **tablet computers**, **e-readers**, and **smartphones**.

Tablet Computers



iPad

Using a virtual keyboard on an

Like **laptops**, **tablet computers** are designed to be portable. However, they provide a very different computing experience. The most obvious difference is that tablet computers don't have keyboards or touchpads. Instead, the entire screen is touch-sensitive, allowing you to type on a **virtual keyboard** and use your finger as a mouse pointer.

Tablet computers are mostly designed for **consuming media**, and they are optimized for tasks like **web browsing**, **watching videos**, **reading e-books**, and **playing games**. For many people, a "regular" computer like a **desktop** or **laptop** is still needed in order to use some programs. However, the convenience of a tablet computer means that it may be ideal as a **second computer**. Below are some of the main features that you can expect with a tablet computer:

- **Mobile OS:** Different types of tablets use different operating systems. Examples include **Android** and **iOS**. You'll usually be able to download **free updates** to your OS as they become available.
- **Solid-State Drives:** Tablet computers usually use **solid-state drives**, which allow the computer to **boot up** and open **programs** more quickly. They are also more **durable** than hard disk drives.
- **Wi-Fi and 3G/4G:** Since they are optimized for internet use, tablet computers have built-in **Wi-Fi**. For a monthly fee, you can also purchase a **3G or 4G data plan**, allowing you to access the internet from almost anywhere.
- **Bluetooth:** In order to save space, tablet computers have very few **ports**. If you want to use an external **keyboard** or other peripherals, they will often use a wireless **Bluetooth** connection.

E-Book Readers



A Kindle e-reader with an e-paper display



A Nook Color with an LCD display

E-book readers (also called **e-readers**) are similar to tablet computers, except they are mainly designed for reading **e-books** (digital, downloadable books). Examples include the **Amazon Kindle** and the **Barnes & Noble Nook**.

E-book readers have either an **e-paper** display or an **LCD** display:

- **E-Paper:** Short for **electronic paper**, this type of display can usually only display **black and white**. It is designed to look a lot like an actual page in a book. Unlike an LCD display, it is **not backlit**, so the text stays readable even outdoors in full sun. Many people consider e-paper to be more pleasant to read, as it causes less **eye strain**. However, it generally can't be used for **videos** or other applications because the refresh rate is too low.
- **LCD:** This is the same type of screen found on **tablet computers** and **laptops**. It's more versatile than e-paper, but it's often more difficult to view in bright sunlight, as the image becomes **washed out**. Since an LCD screen can display **colors**, this type of e-reader is better for viewing **magazines** or books with **photos**. Many LCD e-readers (such as the

Nook Color) are basically **tablet computers**, as they can do many different tasks in addition to displaying e-books.

You don't need an e-reader in order to read an e-book. E-books can usually be read on **tablet computers**, **smartphones**, **laptops**, and **desktops**.

Go to the [Kindle](#) and [Nook](#) websites to compare the features of different e-readers.

Smartphones



Using an iPhone

A **smartphone** is a powerful **mobile phone** that is designed to run a variety of applications in addition to phone service. They are basically small **tablet computers**, and they can be used for **web browsing**, **watching videos**, **reading e-books**, **playing games** and more.

Smartphones use **touchscreens** and **operating systems** similar to those used by tablet computers. Many of them use a **virtual keyboard**, but others (such as the BlackBerry Bold) have a **physical keyboard**, which allows the entire screen to be used for display purposes.

Internet access is an important feature of smartphones. Generally, you will need to purchase a **3G or 4G data plan** in addition to normal **cell service**. Smartphones can also connect to **Wi-Fi** when it is available, which is usually faster than 3G.

A **personal digital assistant (PDA)** is a mobile device that is used for managing phone numbers, addresses, calendars, and other information. Before **smartphones** existed, a PDA was usually a **separate device**. Today, smartphones combine the functionality of a **PDA** and a **mobile phone**.

Challenge!

- Think about how a **tablet computer** is different from a **laptop**. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of a tablet computer?

- If you're thinking about buying an **e-reader**, think about what kinds of things you like to read. Do you mostly read **books** or **magazines**? What kind of screen do you think would be best?
- Smartphones can have **virtual keyboards** or **physical keyboards**. What are some advantages and disadvantages for each one?

GRAMMAR FOCUS 5

Adverbs

Definition

Adverbs are words that modify

- a verb (He drove slowly. — How did he drive?)
- an adjective (He drove a very fast car. — How fast was his car?)
- another adverb (She moved quite slowly down the aisle. — How slowly did she move?)

As we will see, adverbs often tell when, where, why, or under what conditions something happens or happened. Adverbs frequently end in *-ly*; however, many words and phrases not ending in *-ly* serve an adverbial function and an *-ly* ending is not a guarantee that a word is an adverb. The words *lovely*, *lonely*, *motherly*, *friendly*, *neighborly*, for instance, are adjectives:

- That lovely woman lives in a friendly neighborhood.

If a group of words containing a subject and verb acts as an adverb (modifying the verb of a sentence), it is called an Adverb Clause:

- When this class is over, we're going to the movies.

When a group of words not containing a subject and verb acts as an adverb, it is called an adverbial phrase. Prepositional phrases frequently have adverbial functions (telling place and time, modifying the verb):

- He went to the movies.
- She works on holidays.
- They lived in Canada during the war.

And Infinitive phrases can act as adverbs (usually telling why):

- She hurried to the mainland to see her brother.
- The senator ran to catch the bus.

But there are other kinds of adverbial phrases:

- He calls his mother as often as possible.

Adverbs can modify adjectives, but an adjective cannot modify an adverb.

Thus we would say that "the students showed a really wonderful attitude" and that "the students showed a wonderfully casual attitude" and that "my professor is really tall, but not "He ran real fast."

Like adjectives, adverbs can have comparative and superlative forms to show degree.

- Walk faster if you want to keep up with me.
- The student who reads fastest will finish first.

We often use *more* and *most*, *less* and *least* to show degree with adverbs:

- With sneakers on, she could move more quickly among the patients.
- The flowers were the most beautifully arranged creations I've ever seen.
- She worked less confidently after her accident.
- That was the least skillfully done performance I've seen in years.

The as — as construction can be used to create adverbs that express sameness or equality: "He can't run as fast as his sister."

A handful of adverbs have two forms, one that ends in *-ly* and one that doesn't. In certain cases, the two forms have different meanings:

- He arrived late.
- Lately, he couldn't seem to be on time for anything.

In most cases, however, the form without the *-ly* ending should be reserved for casual situations:

- She certainly drives slow in that old Buick of hers.
- He did wrong by her.
- He spoke sharp, quick, and to the point.

Adverbs often function as **intensifiers**, conveying a greater or lesser emphasis to something. Intensifiers are said to have three different functions: they can emphasize, amplify, or downtone. Here are some examples:

- Emphasizers:
 - I really don't believe him.
 - He literally wrecked his mother's car.
 - She simply ignored me.
 - They're going to be late, for sure.
- Amplifiers:
 - The teacher completely rejected her proposal.
 - I absolutely refuse to attend any more faculty meetings.
 - They heartily endorsed the new restaurant.
 - I so wanted to go with them.
 - We know this city well.
- Downtoners:
 - I kind of like this college.
 - Joe sort of felt betrayed by his sister.
 - His mother mildly disapproved his actions.
 - We can improve on this to some extent.
 - The boss almost quit after that.
 - The school was all but ruined by the storm.

Adverbs (as well as adjectives) in their various degrees can be accompanied by premodifiers:

- She runs very fast.
- We're going to run out of material all the faster

Kinds of Adverbs

Adverbs of Manner

She moved slowly and spoke quietly.

Adverbs of Place

She has lived on the island all her life.

She still lives there now.

Adverbs of Frequency

She takes the boat to the mainland every day.

She often goes by herself.

Adverbs of Time

She tries to get back before dark.

It's starting to get dark now.

She finished her tea first.

She left early.

Adverbs of Purpose

She drives her boat slowly to avoid hitting the rocks.

She shops in several stores to get the best buys.

Positions of Adverbs

One of the hallmarks of adverbs is their ability to move around in a sentence. Adverbs of manner are particularly flexible in this regard.

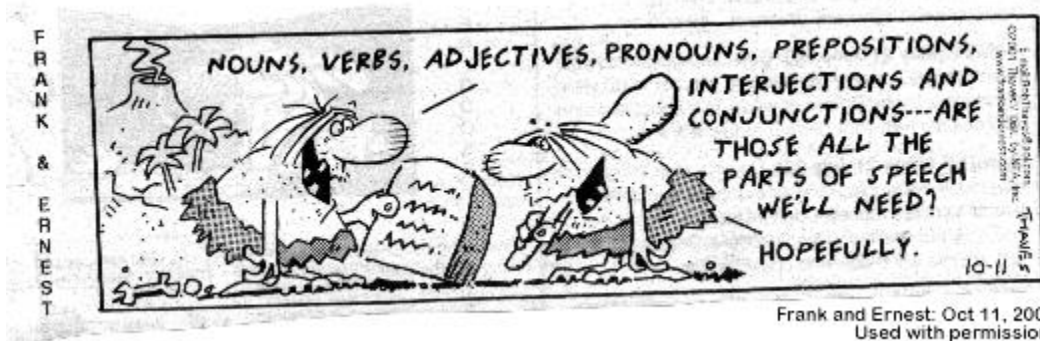
- Solemnly the minister addressed her congregation.
- The minister solemnly addressed her congregation.
- The minister addressed her congregation solemnly.

The following adverbs of frequency appear in various points in these sentences:



- Before the main verb: I never get up before nine o'clock.
- Between the auxiliary verb and the main verb: I have rarely written to my brother without a good reason.
- Before the verb *used to*: I always *used to* see him at his summer home.

Indefinite adverbs of time can appear either before the verb or between the auxiliary and the main verb:

- He finally showed up for batting practice.
- She has recently retired.



Order of Adverbs

 THE ROYAL ORDER OF ADVERBS 					
Verb	Manner	Place	Frequency	Time	Purpose
Beth swims	enthusiastically	in the pool	every morning	before dawn	to keep in shape.
Dad walks	impatiently	into town	every afternoon	before supper	to get a newspaper.
Tashonda naps		in her room	every morning	before lunch.	
In actual practice, of course, it would be highly unusual to have a string of adverbial modifiers beyond two or three (at the most). Because the placement of adverbs is so flexible, one or two of the modifiers would probably move to the beginning of the sentence: "Every afternoon before supper, Dad impatiently walks into town to get a newspaper." When that happens, the introductory adverbial modifiers are usually set off with a comma.					

Exercise 1 Underline each adverb.

I went to bed too late last night so now I'm tired.

- Pedro enthusiastically supported Zach's bid for student council president.
- Spend your money wisely.
- Marissa waited quietly for the play to begin.
- Lightly underline the words you want to emphasize.
- Now I want everyone to turn to page 36.
- After surgery Lu Chan stretched his muscles slowly and painfully.
- Ada whispered softly so she would not disturb the other people.
- Will you sit close to me?
- I am terribly confused about the schedule.
- This project is finally and completely finished.

Exercise 2 Draw an arrow from each adverb to the word it modifies.

Do you think we will be received *graciously*?

- Mac looked everywhere for his jacket but could not find it.
- Tom threw the ball fast and hard.
- Soon it will be time to go to sleep.
- Dorothy asked her questions firmly but politely.
- Mimi was extremely exhausted after the mile run on a hot day.
- The goalie defended forcefully but gracefully.
- Matt's parents briefly spoke to his teacher.
- Though the path was marked for beginning backpackers, it seemed rather steep to us.

9. Rosemarie is very conscientious about everything she does.
10. Who is on the phone now?

Exercise 3 Write in the blank the correct form of the adverb in parentheses.

Of the three students, Sondra always arrives ...*late*..... (late)

1. Jacob traveled _____ than Rachel to attend the reunion. (far)
2. Pasqual reacted _____ than Scott. (eagerly)
3. Samantha accepted the criticism _____ than Jack. (graciously)
4. Our principal reacted _____ of all. (favorably)
5. Which of the employees progressed _____ towards her goal? (far)
6. Jenny performed _____ today than yesterday. (well)
7. Of Miami, Orlando, and Tallahassee, Miami is the _____ south. (far)
8. Mr. Aravjo follows the stock market _____ than my dad does. (closely)
9. Jonathan finished his homework _____ than usual yesterday. (early)
10. Which of these four low-priced cars performed _____ in the tests? (badly)