

Grammar Reference

Adverb position 2

Meaning and use

Adverbs are words and phrases that we use to give more information about verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. They answer questions such as where? when? how? how often?

*He **calmly** picked up his coat and left.*
*She **regularly** brings her own lunch to work.*
*I haven't seen my brother **in a while**.*
*She drives a **dark** black sports car*
*They deliver **very** quickly.*

Form

There are many different adverbs. There is no particular form that identifies a word as an adverb. Some adjectives can be turned in to adverbs by adding **–ly**.

*It was a **slow** journey.* (adjective)
*She drove **slowly**.* (adverb)

-ly adjectives are sometimes referred to as **adverbs of manner**. They describe the way someone does something. Note though that not all words that end in **–ly** are adverbs, not all adverbs of manner end in **-ly** and not all adjectives can made into adverbs this way.

Adverbs can be a single word or a group of words.

*I **really** like it here.*
*We arrived **the day before yesterday**.*

Take note: Adverb position with adjectives

When an adverb is used to talk about an adjective, put the adverb before the adjective.

*We're **so** glad you came.*
*I've had a **very** good day today.*
*I'd say his car was a **dark** blue.*

Take note: Adverb position with other adverbs

When an adverb is used to talk about another adverb, put the adverb before the adverb to be modified.

*You drove **incredibly** dangerously.*

Take note: Adverb position with verbs

When adverbs are used to modify a verb, generally they can be placed before the subject, before the main verb or after the direct object or complement of the verb.

***Usually** I try to get there early.*
*I **usually** try to get there early*
*I try to get there early **usually**.*

You can put many adverbs in any of these positions depending on context or style. There are some general guides though that you can follow as we tend to use some adverbs in particular positions.

For more information about the position of adverbs with verbs see [Now, where did I put that adverb?](#)

Take note: Adverbs of indefinite frequency and degree adverbs

These are frequently used in the second position. Some examples of these adverbs are: **always, never, hardly ever, often, rarely, regularly, seldom, almost, hardly, nearly, quite, scarcely**

*I will **always** love you.*
*I had **never** seen anything like it.*

Take note: Adverbs of place and adverbs of definite time and frequency

These usually go in the third position. Some examples of these adverbs are: **downstairs, over there, on the table, last week, daily**

*I ride my bike **daily**.*

Take note: adverbial phrases of time or frequency

Use these adverbs in the first or third positions, but not the second. Some examples of these adverbials are: **from time to time, as a rule, every so often**

***From time to time** I buy things online.*
*I buy things online **from time to time**.*

Take note: Really

The meaning of the adverb **really** can change depending on its position. Before an adjective it has a meaning similar to **very**.

*When we lost the match I was **really** disappointed.*

In other positions it has the meaning of **actually** or **in fact, truly**.

*I **really** do want to go - I wasn't joking.*

Take note: Yet

Yet usually goes in the third position in negatives and questions.

*Have they arrived **yet**?*

