

## 10. Adverbs

A word or a group of words that qualifies a verb adjective or another adverb is called an adverb. (The classification of the adverbs was already given in the chapter "parts of speech")

- Placement of adverb in a sentence: When it is intended to qualify the whole sentences independently

**Example:** Luckily no one was inside when the roof fell in.

- When it is used very emphatically.

**Example:** Down went the Royal gorge with all her crew complete.

- If the verb is intransitive, the qualifying adverb is placed immediately.

**Example:** He lived well and died happily.

- If the verb is a transitive, an adverb qualifying such transitive verb, must be placed after the object of the verb.

**Example:** He did his work patiently till sunset.

- If the tense of verb is formed by an auxiliary verb, the adverb is generally placed between the auxiliary verb and principal verb.

**Example:** The wind has suddenly risen.

- Usage of "Much, Very": As a qualifier the word "much" qualifies an adverb in the comparative degree and past participles.

**Example:**

- The air is much hotter today than yesterday.
- I was much surprised in hearing the news.

- Usage of "Very": The word "very" qualifies the present participle.

**Example:** This news is very perplexing.

**Note:** The following usages in modern English are accepted.

**Example:** He was very pleased to hear this.

- Usage of "Too": This adverb denotes some kind of "excess" that is unwanted in the formal usages. So all such expression as following -

- Sugar is too sweet.
- He writes too neatly.
- The roof of this house is too strong.
- Make sheer nonsense.

- Usage of "Enough": Whenever "enough" is used as an adverb, it is placed after the word it qualifies.

**Example:**

- The air today is cold enough for me.
- He is now strong enough to leave his bed.

- Usage of "Since" as an adverb of time: As an adverb of time the word since has two meanings -

- From then (i.e. From some time in the past up to now)

**Example:** I first read it 10 years ago and have remembered it ever since.

**Note:** In this usage the word since qualifies the verb in present perfect tense.

- "At or during, some time, between, then, and now"

**Example:**

- He told me that he had never done so since.
- I was at school with him but have seen him only twice since.

**Note:** On this occasion the word "since" qualifies the verb in the present perfect or past perfect tense.

- Usage of "Here, There": These adverbs usually signify the place. But they frequently stand as the first words in sentences, where they have nearly an introductory value. In the introductory sense, the verb is intransitive and is followed by its subject.

**Example:**

- There were (verb) four persons ("four persons" is a subject) present.
- Here comes (verb) a messenger (subject) from the king's court.

**Note:** In the above examples the verbs must agree with the subject words that are after them.

- Usage of "Else": The word "else" should always be followed by "but", and never by "than".

**Example:** It is nothing else but (not "than") vanity.

- Usage of "Seldom": Never use "seldom or ever", but always say "seldom or never" or "seldom or if ever".

**Example:**

- He seldom or never (not ever) comes late.
- These words are seldom or never (not ever) used now.

- Usages of "Never": This word is used in reference to all the times – the present the past and the future, in negative meaning.

**Example:**

- Honest men never tell lies.
- The sun never rises in the west.

- Usages of "Quite": This adverb means "perfectly or "completely" – but is often wrongly used as equivalent to "very".

**Example:** After long time the situation in the town is quite peaceful. (correct)

- But, it is wrong to say - "The weather is quite pleasant".

**Note:** However the word "quite" is sometimes used with past participle in the sense of very – as "quite delighted, quite tired, quite chilly, quite cool, etc."

