

## ADVERBS

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Adverbs are words that describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Adverbs often answer the questions *when? how? where?* and *to what extent?*

Examples: Tomorrow, I will finish my work.  
The adverb *tomorrow* answers the question “When will I finish my work?”

My colleague will carefully analyze the data.  
The adverb *carefully* answers the question “How will my colleague analyze the data?”

The audience was very quiet during the performance.  
The adverb *very* answers the question “How quiet was the audience during the performance?”

The table should be moved here.  
The adverb *here* answers the question “Where should the table be moved?”

We often forget to water the plants.  
The adverb *often* answers the question “To what extent do we forget to water the plants?”

Although the *-ly* ending usually signifies an adverb, the adverbs with the *-ly* ending should not be confused with adjectives also ending in *-ly*.

Here are some examples of adjectives ending in *-ly* that are not adverbs:

Costly	lively	lonely
worldly	timely	friendly
orderly	motherly	

### Position of Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases

There is a certain order of placement that adverbs of time, manner, location and direction are placed in a sentence.

Adverbs of time are usually placed at (a) the beginning of the sentence or (b) the end of the sentence when the adverb of time is last in a series of adverbs.

Examples:  
a) Yesterday, I walked.  
b) I walked home slowly yesterday.

Adverbs of manner are usually placed (a) after the verb, (b) after the adverb of direction, or (c) before the adverbial phrase of location.

Examples:

a) I walked slowly.

b) I walked home slowly.

c) I walked slowly in the park.

Adverbs or adverbial phrases of direction and location are usually placed after the verb.

Examples: I walked home. (adverb of direction)

I walked in the park. (adverbial phrase of location)

Adverbs modify not only verbs, but also adjectives and other adverbs.

Examples: I walked at an extremely slow pace.

The adverb *extremely* modifies the adjective *slow*. I walked extremely slowly.

The adverb *extremely* modifies the adverb *slowly*.

Additional Examples of Adverbs

Roughly

fast

typically

sometimes

too

seldom

usually

still

consistently

now

rather

later

enough

never

only

always

soon

happily

decisively

well

## Conjunctive Adverbs or Transitional Expressions

Even though conjunctive adverbs are classified as adverbs, they are more closely related to co-ordinate conjunctions. Like co-ordinate conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs connect independent clauses of equal grammatical value to show a transition from one thought to another.

Semicolons are used before conjunctive adverbs that connect independent clauses. See the handouts on comma and semicolon use.

The following sentence contains a conjunctive adverb:

The program was developed for the students; however, it was not approved by the committee.



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