

Adverbs

Adverbs are used to describe actions. They may come **before or after a verb, but not between a verb and its object.**

Mrs. Jenner sang softly a lullaby. (Not correct.)

2. Adverbs may come **between a main verb and its auxiliaries.**

Mrs. Jenner softly is singing a lullaby. (Not correct.)

Some time and frequency adverbs are “movable.” That is, they can **be placed at various points** in a sentence.

Yesterday I visited the dentist.

I visited the dentist *yesterday*.

Jack Prompt is here *already*.

Jack Prompt is *already* here.

Caution:

Even though some adverbs can be used in certain sentence positions, others can not.

I yesterday visited the dentist. (Not okay.)

Already I visited the dentist. (Not okay.)

Adverbs such as *quite*, *very*, *really*, *extremely*, and *absolutely* are used to modify adjectives and other adverbs.

They **come directly before the words they describe.**

Many adverbs can be formed by adding *-ly* to adjectives:

Some adverbs are **identical to adjectives in form. Others are completely different.**

Carl is a *fast* runner. (Adjective) Jill is a *good* student. (Adjective)

Carl runs *fast*. (Adverb) Jill studies *well*. (Adverb)

Be careful with words like *hardly* and *lately*, which **have no relation to the adjectives/adverbs *hard* and *late*.**

Frequency Adverbs

The most common frequency adverbs in English are:

Always	100% of the time
Frequently	about 90% of the time
Usually	about 80% of the time
Often	about 70% of the time
Sometimes	about 50% of the time
Occasionally	about 40% of the time
Seldom	about 20% of the time
Rarely	about 10% of the time
Never	about 00% of the time

Note: The percentages here are rough estimates only.

Frequency adverbs **can be placed at various points in the sentence, but are most commonly used before the *main* verbs and after *be* verbs.**

Note: The adverbs *seldom*, *rarely*, *never* and *hardly ever* are considered negative.

Other frequency adverbs and expressions are as follows:

Every day/week/month

Every other day/week

Once a week/month/year

Twice a year/day, etc.

(Every) once in a while

Every so often

These expressions are **used at the beginning and end of sentences, not before main verbs.**

I every once in a while visit my grandmother in Minnesota. (Incorrect)

Regularly (according to schedule)

Normally (commonly nowadays)

Traditionally (commonly in the past)

These words can come at various points in the sentence.

Adverbs and Prepositions

Adverbs are words or groups of words which **tell *time, place, frequency or manner*.**

I ate my lunch *yesterday*. She went *there*.

I ate at that restaurant last week. She went *downtown*.

Prepositions are usually followed by objects in ***prepositional phrases***. They can also be used to indicate **time, place, frequency, duration, reason, manner, or to show contrast**.

I ate my lunch *at noon*. She went to the store.

I ate in the cafeteria. She walked *into the house*.

***Do not use adverbs as objects of prepositions.**

Incorrect:

Correct:

I went to somewhere.

I went somewhere.

I was busy at last night.

I was busy last night.

John works in downtown.

John works downtown.

She came to home on yesterday. She came home yesterday.

Be careful with words such as ***home, downtown, today, next/last week, etc.*** which are **sometimes used as adverbs and sometimes used as nouns.**

As adverbs

As nouns

I will go back tomorrow.

Tomorrow is another day.

She went home last night.

They built a home in Oregon.

Next week I will travel to Iowa. Next week is my vacation.

Intensifiers

Intensifiers are adverbs that enhance adjectives and adverbs. In English, they come **before the words they modify.**