ADVERBS

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SOUTHEASTERN Writing Center

Adapted from *The Little, Brown Handbook*, 11th Edition, Contributors Dayne Sherman, Jayetta Slawson, Natasha Whitton, and Jeff Wiemelt, 2010, 315-326. Prepared by the Southeaster Writing Center. Last updated July, 2011.

Adverbs describe verbs and modify adjectives and other adverbs. Adverbs, unlike adjectives, do not modify nouns. Adverbs can also modify phrases, clauses, and sentences. Adverbs answer one of the following questions: When? Where? Why? How? Under what conditions? and To what extent?

Example: The teacher had to speak **loudly** to be heard ever the children. (*Loudly* modifies the verb speak.)

The children were **really** bad during the movie. (*Really* modifies the adjective bad.)

John approached the wounded éog **very** slowly. (*Very* modifies the adverb slowly.)

Clearly, Sarah did not understand the directions. (*Clearly* modifies the sentence.) The box is still below the stairs. (Still modifies the phrase "below the stairs.")

Types of Adverbs

An adverb of time answers the question When? Adverbs of time include: after, always, before, during, early, later, never, now, often, rarely, recently, sometimes, soon, then, today, tomorrow, usually, yesterday, etc.

Example: John will attend the soccer game after he finishes his homework. (After answers the question: When will John attend the soccer game?

Adverbs of Manner
An adverb of manner answers the question How? Adverbs of manner include: badly, beautifully, better, bravely, cheerfully, fast, hard, quickly, slowly, inadequately, healthy, well, etc.

Example: Sarah slowly walked over the rocky beach. (Slowly answers the question: How did Sarah walk?)

An adverb of place answers the question Where? Adverbs of place include: above, away, below, down, here, inside

Example: Susan placed the boxes above the file cabinet. (Above answers the question: Where did Susan place

Adverbs of Degree

An adverb of degree answers the question How much? It describes the strength and intensity at which something happens. Adverbs of degree include: almost, completely, enough, entirely, extremely, hardly, just, little, much, nearly, auite, rather, very, too, etc.

Example: John worked very hard to complete his part of the project. (Very answers the question: How hard did John work?)

Adverbs of Frequency
An adverb of frequency answers the question How often? Adverbs of frequency include: always, never, usually, frequently, occasionally, rarely, seldom, sometimes, etc.

Example: Bob always forgets to check his email before class begins. (Before answers the question: How often does Bob forget to check his email?)

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Interrogative Adverbs

An interrogative adverb introduces a question. Interrogative adverbs are usually placed at the beginning of the sentence. Interrogative adverbs include: how, when, why, and where.

Example: When will John's plane arrive from Atlanta?

Conjunctive adverbs serve as transitional words, joining and relating independent clauses. Conjunctive adverbs include: accordingly, also, alternatively, certainly, consequently, finally, nevertheless, moreover, previously, therefore, etc. For a list of more conjunctive adverbs, refer to the Writing Center's handout Common Conjunctions.

Example: We plan to leave early in the morning; therefore, we will go to bed early.

Forming Adverbs

ling –ly to the end

Many adverbs are formed by adding –ly to an adjective.

Example: clear/clearly hard/hardly

Irregular Adverbs

Some adverbs do not use the -ly ending. These adverbs do not have a particular form. Following is a list of some of the most common irregular adverbs: already, also, always, here, never, not, now, often, quite, seldom, soon, still, the

Adverb Placement

Adverbs are flexible in their placement; therefore, they can be placed just about anywhere within the sentence

At the beginning of a sentence or a clause

Example: Clearly, John has a problem arriving to work on time

At the end of a sentence or a clause

Example: Sarah and John attend the opera frequently.

After the verb

Example: Bob and John have always participated in the soccer tournament

Example: Sarah rarely forgets to call home when she is out late

QUIZ

QUICK TIP

Remember that an adverb does not always end in l-y.

QUIZ

- 1.-Darren accidentally deleted three hours of homework with one click.
- A) deleted
- B) homework
- C) accidentally
- D) with

QUIZ

- 2.-Emily worked briefly on her report.
- A) report
- B) briefly
- C) worked
- D) her

QUIZ

B) went	ANSWERS
C) beach	C)
D) We	В)
,	A)
	D)
QUIZ	C)
QUIZ	Do not copy :
4The kayak was speeding wildly through the rapids.A) throughB) kayakC) wasD) wildly	
QUIZ	
5My brother always picks on me.A) brotherB) picks	

 $3.\mbox{-We}$ went to the beach yesterday.

A) yesterday

C) always
D) on

QUIZ