

English

Adverbs – Complete Rules, Types, Usage & Exceptions (SSC English)

S.No.	Category / Rule	Explanation / Rule Details	Example
1	Definition	An adverb modifies a verb , adjective , or another adverb .	She runs quickly . / He is very tall.
2	Main Types of Adverbs	1. Manner (how?) 2. Place (where?) 3. Time (when?) 4. Frequency (how often?) 5. Degree (to what extent?)	She sings sweetly . / He arrived late .
3	Adverb of Manner	Mostly ends in -ly , tells how an action happens.	He spoke softly .
4	Adverb of Place	Tells where something happens. Usually placed after the main verb .	He sat here . / The kids are playing outside .
5	Adverb of Time	Tells when an action occurs. Usually comes at the end or beginning of the sentence.	He will leave tomorrow . / Yesterday , she came home.
6	Adverb of Frequency	Tells how often . Common adverbs: always, usually, often, sometimes, never, rarely.	He never lies. / I always brush my teeth.
7	Adverb of Degree / Quantity	Tells intensity or extent . Common: very, too, almost, quite, rather, so.	She is very smart. / It is too late.
8	Position Rule – Verb Modifier	Usually placed after the verb or verb-object.	He sings beautifully . / She finished the work quickly .
9	Position Rule – Adjective/Adverb Modifier	Placed before the adjective or adverb it modifies.	She is very tall. / He ran quite fast.
10	Position Rule – Frequency Adverbs	Usually placed before the main verb and after the auxiliary verb .	I often go there. / He has never spoken rudely.
11	"Too" vs. "Very" Rule	Too = more than necessary (negative), Very = high degree (neutral/positive)	This tea is too hot to drink. / She is very beautiful.
12	"Much" vs. "Very"	Use much with past participles, comparatives; very with adjectives and present participles.	He is much improved. / He is very tired.
13	"So" vs. "Too"	So is often followed by that , Too is followed by to + verb .	He was so tired that he slept. / He is too weak to walk .
14	Hard vs. Hardly	Hard = with effort (adverb of manner); Hardly = barely / almost not (adverb of degree)	He works hard . / He hardly works.
15	Late vs. Lately	Late = not on time; Lately = recently	He arrived late . / Lately , I've been busy.
16	Near vs. Nearly	Near = close to (place); Nearly = almost	He lives near the station. / I nearly died of fear.
17	Fast, Early, Late – Same Adjective & Adverb Forms	Some adverbs do not take -ly , their adjective and adverb form is the same .	He runs fast . / The train arrived early .
18	"Enough" Rule	Enough comes after the word it modifies.	He is tall enough to play. / She spoke loudly enough .
19	Double Negatives (⚠ Error)**	Never use two negative adverbs together.	<div>✗ He didn't do nothing.</div> <div>✓ He didn't do anything.</div>

20	Comparative & Superlative Adverbs	1-syllable: add -er/-est. 3-syllable: use more / most .	fast → faster → fastest quickly → more quickly → most quickly
21	Exception – Adverb with Adjective Meaning	Some adverbs modify whole sentences, not just verbs.	Unfortunately , we lost the match. / Clearly , he lied.
22	"Only" Placement Rule	"Only" should be placed just before the word it modifies .	✓ Only Ravi passed. ≠ Only passed Ravi (changes meaning)

Summary Table – Common Adverb Confusions

Word 1	Meaning	Word 2	Meaning
Hard	With effort	Hardly	Barely / Almost not
Late	Not on time	Lately	Recently
Near	Close by (place)	Nearly	Almost
Fast	Rapid (same form)	—	—
Enough	Sufficient (after adj.)	—	—



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