

ADVERBS

An **adverb** is a word that tells us more about a verb. It "**qualifies**" or "**modifies**" a verb. Read the following sentences:

- Alice smiled **sweetly**.
- Those mangoes were **very** sweet.
- He spoke **quite** loudly.

In sentence 1, the adverb **quickly** shows how (or in what manner) Alice smiled. It modifies the verb **smiled**.

In sentence 2, the adverb **very** says something about the sweetness of the mangoes. It modifies the adjective **sweet**.

In sentence 3, quite says something about the manner in which he spoke. It modifies the adverb **loudly**.

Note that the **adverbs** that are standing at the beginning of sentences sometimes modify the whole sentence, rather than a particular word.

- **Unfortunately**, no one was present there. (It was unfortunate that no one was present there.)
- **Probably** I am mistaken. (It is probable that I am mistaken.)

Kinds of adverbs

There are very many kinds of adverbs:

1. they are the adverbs which tell us when an action takes place. Examples are **today, yesterday, before, daily, already, ago, never** etc.

Rule: Time adverbs cannot be used in the present perfect, instead the past indefinite is used for them.

- I saw a 3D movie **last night**.
- I met him **yesterday**.
- His father died two years **ago**.
- I have seen him **before**.

2. Adverbs of frequency

They are the adverbs which tell us how often an action takes place. examples are **often, always, once, never, again, seldom, frequently** etc.

- The Delhi Police is **always** with you.
- They **always** come in time.
- We **seldom** go out on Sundays.
- I have seen him only **once**.



3. Adverbs of place

They are the adverbs which tell us where an action takes place. Examples are: **here, there, up, down, everywhere, out, in etc.**

- He left his bag there.
- They looked everywhere.
- Please sit here.
- The car parked there.

4. Adverbs of manner

They are the adverbs which tell us how an action takes place or in what manner. Examples are: **quickly, carefully, sweetly, clearly, bravely, beautifully, well, fast etc.**

- Gautam Buddha left his family stealthily.
- They helped us cheerfully.
- he speaks slowly.

5. Adverb of Degree and quality - They are the adverbs which tell us how much or in what degree or to what extent.

Examples - very, quite, rather, enough, any, partly, almost, utterly, as, entirely etc.

- Shamita is **very** beautiful
- The whistle did not please him **anymore**.
- I have pleaded **enough** and now I give up.
- He's **quite** a good soccer player.

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6. Adverbs of reason - They are the adverbs which tell us why an action takes place.

Examples - consequently, therefore, hence.

- It **consequently** has four vertices and six edges.
- He was **therefore** forced to relinquish his plan.
- Her triumphal progress through the skies. **Hence** he was called.

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7. Adverbs of Adverbs of affirmation or negation - They are the adverbs which tell us whether an action is done or not.

Examples - surely, certainly, not, probably etc.

- **Surely** he should have known she would get suspicious.
- He is a fool **indeed**.
- He is a fool **indeed**.
- I was **not** playing.

8. Interrogative adverbs - Adverbs which are used for asking questions are called interrogative adverbs.

Examples are: when, where, how, why etc.

- When will you go to New York ?
- How long will you stay here?
- Where are my keys ?

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9. Relative adverbs - A relative pronoun is a type of pronoun that often introduces dependent (or relative) clauses in sentences. They also can stand alone as the subject or object of a sentence.

Examples - who, whoever, whom, whomever, that, which, when, where, and whose.

- Where are you going ?

- That was my book.

- yes. With whom am I speaking?

"An adverb is a word which modifies the meaning of verb, an adjective or another adverb."

Rule - 1 Adverb of manner are mostly formed from adjective by adding (ly)

Ex. - (Clever - Cleverly),

(Wise - Wisely).

(Kind - Kindly),

(Foolish - Foolishly)

Rule - 2 When the adjective ends in (y) preceded by a consonant, change (y) into (i) and add (ly)

Ex. - Happy - Happily

Ready - Readily

Heavy - Heavily

Rule - 3 Adverb of manner are generally placed after the verb or after the object if there is one.

Ex. - It is raining heavily.

He is walking slowly.

Ram speaks English well.

He does his work carefully

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Rule - 4 Adverbs of frequency are normally placed before the main verb and after the auxiliary is, am, are, was, were, had, have, will, shall etc.)

Adverb of frequency (always, never, often, rarely, usually, generally, sometimes, almost, already, hardly, nearly, just, quite, occasionally)

Ex. - He always comes late.

He is always late.

He often visits the U.S.

His brother never takes alcohol

He is never punctual.

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Rule - 5 The auxiliaries 'have to' and 'used to' prefer the adverb before them.

Ex. - I often have to go to college by walk.

He never used to agree with me.

Rule - 6 Adverb 'ENOUGH' is always placed after the word which it qualifies

Ex. - Is the hall big enough?

He spoke loud enough to be heard.

She is wise enough to understand your intention.

He had enough money to buy this car. (Correct)

(Noun)

He is faster enough to defeat you. (use fast)

He is bravest enough to be selected for the post of soldier (use brave)

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Rule - 7 'Seldom or Never' and 'Seldom if ever' are both correct but 'Seldom or ever' is incorrect.

Ex. - We seldom or ever visit Delhi. (Incorrect)

We Seldom or never visit Delhi. (Correct)

Rule - 8 'Else' should be followed by 'but'

Ex. - It is nothing else than pride. (Incorrect)

It is nothing else but pride. (Correct)

Rohit has no one else to talk to except his wife. (Incorrect)

Rohit has no one else to talk to but his wife. (Correct)

Rule - 9 The use of 'NEVER' for 'NOT' is Incorrect

Ex. - I never broke your windowpanes. (Incorrect)

I did not break your windowpanes. (Correct)

Rule - 10 Adverbs (Seldom, nowhere, never, nothing, hardly, scarcely, neither, barely, rarely) are not used with other negative words.

Ex. - I rarely went to meet nobody. (Incorrect)

[Use 'anybody' in place of 'Nobody']

I rarely went to meet anybody. (Correct)

She hardly knows nothing about me. (Incorrect)

She hardly knows anything about me. (Correct)

Rule - 11 Adverb 'AS' is used with the following verbs

(Regard, Describe, define, treat, view, know)

Ex. - I regard him as my brother.

Biology had been defined as the study of organism.

Adverb 'AS' is not used with the following verbs

[Name, elect, think, consider, call, appoint, make, choose]

Rule - 12 'SO' as an adverb of degree must not be used without a correlative.

Ex. - He is so weak. (incorrect)

He is very weak (Correct)

It was so lovely (Incorrect)

It was very lovely. (Correct)

He is so weak that he cannot walk. (Correct)

Rule - 13 The adverb 'too' means 'more than enough' and should not be used instead of 'every' or 'much'

The news is too good to be true.

He is too weak to walk.

Rule - 14 'Rather' is used as comparative adverb for the sake of emphasis.

Ex. - We should think of living rather or dying.

[This sentence is correct because there is comparison between living and dying]

You are rather very clever. (Incorrect)

You are very clever. (Correct)

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Rule - 15 In order to make our meaning clear, an adverb must be placed as near as possible to the word it modifies

Ex. - She has only three dollars with her.

(Adv.) (Adj.)

We only have four hours to finish this paper. (Wrong)

We have only four hour to finish this paper (Right)

That building nearly costs sixty thousand rupees. (Wrong)

That building costs nearly sixty thousand rupees.(Right)

She just wants to take one class. (Wrong)

[Not anything else]

She wants to take just one class.(Right)

[Not even second]

Rule - 16 When an adverb modifies an intransitive verb, it usually follow it.

Ex. - She sang melodiously.

She writes neatly

The birds fly swiftly

Rule - 17 When a verb consists of an auxiliary and a main verb, the adverb which qualifies is placed between the auxiliary and the main verb.

Ex. - I have told him often not to come late. (Wrong)

I have often told him not to come late. (Right)

Rule - 18 When an adverb modifies an adjective or another adverb, the adverb usually comes before it.

Ex. - The cuckoo sings quite sweetly.

Do not speak so fast.

Rule - 19 Use of hard, hardly, scarce, scarcely

Hard - as an adverb means 'Diligently'. It usually follows the verb.

Ex. - He works hard to make both ends meet.

Our team played hard in Pakistan.

I tried hard to succeed.

Hardly - When used as an adverb means scarcely, barely. It conveys a negative meaning.

Hardly (Scarcely) had he reached the station, when the train left.

[Hardly and scarcely are followed by when]

[No sooner is followed by than]

Scarce - as an adjective means 'not plentiful, hard to find, not often found

Ex. - Coal has become scarce in England.

Scarcely - as an adverb is almost synonymous 'Hardly'

I can scarcely hear you.

They have scarcely enough to look after their children

Rule - 20 Use of MUCH, VERY

'Much' qualifies adjectives or adverbs in the comparative degree;

'very' in the positive.

Ex. - The air is much hotter today than yesterday.

This book is much heavier than that.

This book is very useful

He spoke very loudly.

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