

# Adverbs

Types and Usage

# Definition

- An adverb is a word that describes or gives more information about a **verb**, an **adjective**, another adverb, or even the entire sentence.
- The word "adverb" comes for the Latin *ad-* (in addition) and *verbum* (word).

# Adverbs usually answer the following questions

- Where? **Home.** ("I went home.")
- When? **Yesterday.** ("We met yesterday.")
- How? **Slowly.** ("The turtle moves slowly.")
- How often? **Sometimes.** ("Sometimes it stops responding.")
- How long? **Temporarily.** ("She is staying with us temporarily.")
- How likely? **Surely.** ("Our team will surely win!")
- To what degree? **Very.** ("She was very pleased.")

# Adverb describes ...

- **An adverb can describe a verb:**  
She runs **quickly**.
- **An adverb can describe an adjective:**  
She is **so** beautiful.
- **An adverb can describe another adverb:**  
She smokes **very** rarely.
- **An adverb can describe an entire sentence:**  
**Obviously**, you don't have to come.

# Form

- In many cases (but not always!) adverbs have the following form:
- Adjective + "-ly"

## Examples:

Quick + ly = **quickly**

Strange + ly = **strangely**

Dead + ly = **deadly**

Sudden + ly = **suddenly**

Clever + ly = **cleverly**

Brave + ly = **bravely**

Real + ly = **really**

# Form

- **When an adjective ends with "y" replace the "y" with an "i":**  
Heavy + ly = heavi + ly = heavily  
Happy + ly = happi + ly = happily
- **When the adjective ends with an "e" drop the "e":**  
True + ly = tru + ly = truly

**However, there are many adverbs that do not end in "-ly":** Very, home, too, well, never, sometimes, and so forth.

# Types

- **Adverbs of degree**

Very, highly, totally, perfectly, partially, almost.

- **Adverbs of manner**

Well, badly, nicely, slowly, loudly, quietly, happily, sadly, secretly, weakly.

- **Adverbs of place**

Home, here, there, outside, inside, away, around, anywhere, abroad, up, down, out.

- **Adverbs of time**

Now, soon, later, yesterday, tomorrow, early, before, lately, recently.

## Types (Contd.)

- **Adverbs of frequency**

Always, never, sometimes, often, rarely, usually, occasionally.

- **Adverbs of duration**

Forever, constantly, temporarily, briefly.

- **Adverbs of probability**

Certainly, maybe, probably, possibly, surely.



# Comparative Adverbs

"Comparative" means "comparing something to something else."

Comparative adverbs show us which action or state is better, worse, stronger, weaker, and so forth.

## **Examples:**

more, less, better, worse, faster, slower, farther, closer.

## **Example sentences:**

- Maggie works out **more** seriously than Donna.
- She eats **less** than her friends.
- You are **better** than this.
- We couldn't go **slower** even if we wanted to.

# Superlative Adverbs

"Superlative" means "of the highest degree."

Superlative adverbs show us which action or state is the best, the strongest, and so forth.

## **Examples:**

Best, most, least, worst, strongest, fastest, slowest.

## **Example sentences:**

- He knows **best**.
- It was the **most** boring experience.
- He shouted the **loudest** so he won.
- He ran the **slowest** so he lost.

# Tip #1

**Hardly means almost none, and hard means heavily**

Rama works hardly ✗

Rama works hard ✓

Rama hardly works ✓

Third sentence is correct as hardly indicates here, Rama is a lazy person.

## Tip #2

**Late means after the expected time. Lately means recently.**

He came lately ✗

He came late. ✓

Have you seen her lately? ✓

# Position of Adverbs

- **Adverbs of place, manner, time, generally put after the verb**

We gave immediately our reply. ✗

We gave our reply immediately. ✓

The worker has satisfactorily done his work. ✗

The worker has done his work satisfactorily. ✓

- **The adverb enough is always placed after the word which it modifies.**

Her mother was enough foolish believe it. ✗

Her mother was foolish enough to believe it. ✓

The Indian army is enough strong to fight. ✗

The Indian army is strong enough to fight. ✓

# Position of Adverbs (Contd.)

- **Adverbs of frequency which answer the question "how often?" and certain other verbs like almost, already, hardly, nearly, just, quite are normally put between subject and verb.**

✗

They seldom come to see me.

✓

We try always to help him. ✗

We always try to help him. ✓

She feels sometimes resigning the job. ✗

She sometimes feels resigning the job. ✓

Gopal attended frequently the club meetings. ✗

Gopal frequently attended the club meetings. ✓

Nothing seems ever to change in this village. ✗

Nothing ever seems to change in this village. ✓

He is a careless fellow rather. ✗

He is rather a careless fellow. ✓

# Position of Adverbs (Contd.)

- 'Very' is used before the present participles and the Adverbs and Adjectives of the Positive degree and 'much' is used before the Adjectives and Adverbs of the Comparative degree

I am much good now. ✗

I am much better now. ✓

He sang much sweetly. ✗

He sang much more sweetly. ✓

I am very amazed to find you here.

✗

I am much amazed to find you here.

✓

He arrived very sooner than expected ✗

He arrived much sooner than expected. ✓

He is very much late for the school. ✗

He is very late for the school. ✓

My brother is very much pleased with him

✗

My brother is very pleased with him. ✓

He is much tired. ✗

He is very tired. ✓

She is very taller than her sister. ✗

She is much taller than her sister. ✓

His presence there was very much astonishing. ✗

His presence there was very astonishing.

✓

# Position of Adverbs (Contd.)

- **Too, Very:** "Too" indicates excess. It should not be used in the above sense. It is better to use 'very'.

Geeta is too glad to meet you. ✗

Geeta is very glad to meet you. ✓

Sunil is too humble. ✗

Sunil is very humble. ✓

This mango is too delicious. ✗

This mango is very delicious. ✓

You are very weak to walk. ✗

You are too weak to walk. ✓

Today's news is very good to be true. ✗

Today's news is too good to be true. ✓



# Position of Adverbs (Contd.)

## ● Ago and Since

He visited Allahabad since three years. ✗

He visited Allahabad three years ago. ✓

## ● After and since

Two years have passed after his mother expired. ✗

Two years have passed since his mother expired. ✓

She has been confined to bed from Tuesday last. ✗

She has been confined to bed since Tuesday last. ✓

# Error detection and Correction

- She is very much beautiful.
- **She is very beautiful.**
  
- I am very much sorry.
- **I am very sorry.**
  
- **Explanation :** The expressions **very much** and **very many** are uncommon in **affirmative sentences**, but they are possible in questions and negatives.

- He was very foolish enough to trust her.
- **He was too foolish to trust her.**
  
- He was foolish enough to trust her.
- **He was so foolish that he trusted her.**
  
- **Explanation : Enough** cannot be modified by **very**.
  
- I managed to do it anyhow.
- **I managed to do it somehow.**
  
- **Explanation : Anyhow** means *in disorder*. **Somehow** means *by some means*. *Anyhow* can also mean *for certain*. E.g., He may not win but anyhow I shall.

- To tell in brief
- **In short**
  
- He told the story in details.
- **He told the story in detail.**
  
- Before long there was no one there.
- **Long ago there was no one there.**
  
- **Explanation** : **Anyhow** means *in disorder*. **Somehow** means *by some means*. *Anyhow* can also mean *for certain*. E.g., He may not win but anyhow I shall.

- This story is too interesting.
- **This story is very interesting.**
  
- She is too beautiful.
- **She is very beautiful.**
  
- **Explanation :** **Too** means *more than it ought to be*. It has a negative meaning. E.g., He is **too** fat.
  
- He sings good.
- **He sings well.**
  
- **Explanation :** To modify the verb **sings**, we have to use an adverb. **Good** is an adjective. The adverb for

- They behaved cowardly.
- **They behaved in a cowardly manner.**
  
- **Explanation** : Some words ending in **ly** are adjectives, and not normally adverbs. **Cowardly** is one among them. Other common examples are costly, deadly, friendly, likely, lively, miserly, lovely, lonely, silly etc. There are no adverbs like cowardlily or costlily.
- To modify the verb **behave** we have to use an adverb, not an adjective. Since there is no adverb for this meaning, we use the adverb phrase *in a cowardly manner*.
  
- He lives miserly.
- **He lives in a miserly way.**
  
- **Explanation** : **Miserly** is an adjective. To modify the

- My sister is tall than me.
- **My sister is taller than me.**
  
- **Explanation** : We use comparative adjectives and adverbs before **than**.
  
- Really speaking she isn't very brilliant.
- **To speak the truth she isn't very brilliant.**
  
- **Explanation** : Other phrases that can be used instead of *to speak the truth* are: *as a matter of fact*, *in truth* and *in fact*.
  
- In fact she isn't very brilliant.
- As a matter of fact she isn't very brilliant.

- Never I have seen such a mess.
- **Never have I seen such a mess.**
- **Explanation** : If a negative word is put at the beginning of a sentence, it is usually followed by **auxiliary verb + subject**. Note that these structures are rather formal and uncommon. The sentence *I have never seen such a mess* is also correct and more common.
- Hardly I have had any rest for one week.
- **Hardly have I had any rest for one week.**
- **I have hardly had any rest for one week.**



1. It was bitter cold.

1. It was **bitterly** cold. (Wrong use of adjective in place of adverb)

2. I couldn't help not overhearing their conversation.

2. I **couldn't** help overhearing their conversation. (Double negative)

3. I ever remember having seen a more interesting film.

3. I **never** remember having seen a more interesting film. (Wrong use of ever and never)

4. The story was too interesting.

4. The story was **very** interesting. (Too means 'more than enough'. It should not be used in the sense of very or much.)

5. She hasn't got no children.

5. She **hasn't got any** children. OR She **has got no** children. (Double negative)

6. This hardly won liberty cannot be lightly abandoned.

6. This **hard won** liberty cannot be lightly abandoned. (hardly confused with hard)

7. I am much happy to see you.

7. I am **very** happy to see you. (Happy is an adjective. Much cannot be used with adjectives.)

8. No one writes as neat as he does.

8. No one writes as **neatly** as he does. (Wrong use of adjective in place of adverb)

9. I cannot by no means allow you to do so.

9. I **cannot by any means** allow you to do so. OR I **can by no means** allow you to do so. (Double negative)

10. She sang sweet.

10. She sang **sweetly**. (Wrong use of adjective in place of adverb)

11. I felt so lonely.

11. I felt **very** lonely. (Wrong use of so instead of very)

12. I don't know nothing about the matter.

12. I **don't know anything** about the matter. OR I **know nothing** about the matter. (Double negative)

1. I came cross a friend.

I came across a friend.

2. The deer is live.

The deer is alive.

3. They shut the door before the thieves came shortly.

They shout the door shortly before the thieves came.

4. The cellphone was found after it was lost long.

The cellphone was found long after it was lost.

5. They arrived at midnight after a few hours.

They arrived a few hours after midnight.

6. I am your sincerely.

I am sincerely yours.

7. The above sum is wrong.

A sum about is wrong.

8. This is a mail up.  
This is an up-mail.

9. She lives in a country far off.  
She lives in a far off country.

10. Soon you go, the good.  
The sooner you go, the better.

11. She came to my house latest.  
She came to my house last.

12. This was the last model.  
This was the latest model.

13. He did it wiselier than her.  
He did it more wisely than her

14. She spoke loud.  
She spoke aloud.

15. I was little tried.

I was a little tired.

16. She comes to me sometime.

She comes to me sometimes / Sometimes, she come to me.

17. She stays with me sometimes.

She stays with me for sometimes.

18. All saves one left.

All save one left.

19. Crops have been spoiled owing to rains.

Crops have been spoiled due to heavy rains.

20. The flea flew exactly the boy's overhead.

lea flew exactly over the boy's head.

21. He was sitting inside the door almost.

He was sitting almost outside the door.

22. You are well of.

You are well off.

23. From the garden the cat ran in the house.

From the garden, the cat ran into the house.

24. The flag is flying into the house.

The flag is flying on the house.

25. She has come beyond the seas.

She has come from beyond the seas.

26. I met her perticular.

I met her in particular.

27. The cat was set large.

The cat was set at large.

28. No profits will come.

No profits will come in.

Thank You