

- b) least intelligent
- c) longest
- d) most small

4. When do we generally **not** use the article *the* with a superlative adjective?

- a) When the person or thing is being compared to itself in other times
- b) When the person or thing is being compared with a group in other times
- c) When the superlative adjective is being used for hyperbolic effect
- d) When a single-syllable adjective is being made into the superlative form

Adverbs

Definition

An **adverb** refers to any element in a sentence used to modify a verb, adjective, another adverb, or even an entire clause.

Adverbs can be single words, as in:

- “You write **beautifully**.”
- “He **slowly** walked towards the bus.”
- “He owns the **bright** red car.”

They can also be phrases (called **adverbial phrases**) or entire clauses (called **adverbial clauses**). For example:

- “She ran **very quickly** so as not to be late.” (The adverbial phrase *very quickly* modifies the verb *ran*.)
- “The cat lives **in the shed**.” (The adverbial prepositional phrase *in the shed* modifies the verb *lives*.)
- “She looked excited, **as if she could jump up and dance at any moment**.” (The adverbial clause *as if she could jump up and dance at any moment* modifies the independent clause *She looked excited*.)

Single-word adverbs, adverbial phrases, and adverbial clauses are sometimes grouped together under the umbrella term **adverbials**, which simply means any word or group of words used as an adverb in a sentence. However, because the term is so broad in meaning, it is very common to simply call any adverbial element an “adverb.”

Categories of Adverbs

There are many different categories of adverbs, which provide specific kinds of descriptions and which behave slightly differently in a sentence.

The table below provides a quick breakdown of the different categories and how they are used to describe something in a sentence. Go to the sections of each individual category to see more examples and learn more about how they are used.

(Note that most of the examples below are single-word adverbs. However, adverbial phrases—and sometimes adverbial clauses—can also belong to each category.)

Category of Adverb	Function	Example adverbs	Example sentence
Adverbs of Time	Describe when or for how long something happens or is the case.	<i>now, tomorrow, yesterday, still, yet, later</i>	“We are eating now .”
Adverbs of Frequency	Describe how frequently something happens or is the case. A subset of Adverbs of Time.	<i>always, usually, sometimes, often, rarely, daily, weekly, monthly</i>	“I rarely eat breakfast in bed.”
Adverbs of Place	Describe the direction, distance, movement, or position involved in the action of a verb.	<i>north, everywhere, here, there, forward, downward, up, uphill, behind</i>	“I absolutely hate running uphill .”
Adverbs of Manner	Describe how something happens or how someone does something. Usually formed from adjectives.	<i>beautifully, wonderfully, slowly, deliberately, happily</i>	“He walked slowly toward the bar.”

Adverbs of Degree	Describe the intensity, degree, or extent of the verb, adjective, or adverb they are modifying.	<i>undoubtedly, truly, very, quite, pretty, somewhat, fairly</i>	“I’m fairly certain this is correct.”
Adverbs of Purpose	Describe why something happens or is the case. Single-word adverbs are usually conjunctive adverbs .	<i>therefore, thus, consequently, hence</i>	“We’ve never seen such high numbers. We must therefore conclude that the results are not normal.”
Focusing Adverbs	Used to draw attention to a particular part of a clause.	<i>also, exclusively, just, mostly, notably, primarily</i>	“They played mostly techno music at the party.”
Negative Adverbs	Used to modify the meaning of a verb, adjective, other adverb, or entire clause in a negative way. Used in many of the other categories above.	<i>no, not, hardly, barely, never, seldom</i>	“He does not work on Mondays.”
Conjunctive Adverbs	Used to connect independent clauses and describe the relationship between them.	<i>comparatively, therefore, also, however, moreover, similarly</i>	“Jen is terrible at math; however , she still likes it.”
Evaluative Adverbs	Used by the speaker to comment or give an opinion on something. Evaluative adverbs modify the entire clause.	<i>apparently, astonishingly, clearly, frankly, obviously, presumably</i>	“ Clearly , we’re going to have to work harder.”

Viewpoint Adverbs	Used to indicate whose point of view we are expressing, or to specify what aspect of something we are talking about. (Many viewpoint adverbs are adverbial phrases .)	<i>personally, in my point of view, according to you, scientifically, biologically</i>	“ Personally , I don’t believe it’s true.”
Relative Adverbs	Used to introduce relative clauses , when the information relates to a <u>place</u> , <u>time</u> , or the <u>reason</u> an action took place.	<i>where, when, why</i>	“I don’t know why he got angry.”
Adverbial Nouns	Nouns or noun phrases that function grammatically as adverbs to modify verbs and certain adjectives, usually specifying time, distance, weight, age, or monetary value.	<i>tomorrow, an hour, an ounce, five dollars, 25 years</i>	“I can barely see a foot in front of me in this fog.”

Regular and irregular adverbs

Regular adverbs are formed by adding “-ly” or some variation thereof onto the end of an adjective. Sometimes the adjective’s spelling needs to be altered slightly to accommodate this, but the rules of doing so are consistent and fairly straightforward.

Irregular adverbs, on the other hand, are adverbs that are not formed according to standard English spelling conventions. Because they do not follow the “rules,” there is no trick to using them: you simply have to memorize them.

Continue on to the section **Regular and Irregular Adverbs** in this chapter to learn more about both kinds.

Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Comparative and **superlative adverbs** are almost exclusively used to modify verbs.

Comparative adverbs express a higher (or lower) degree of how a verb's action is performed, usually in comparison to another person or thing. They are generally formed by adding the suffix “-er.”

Superlative adverbs, on the other hand, are used to identify the highest (or lowest) degree of how an action is performed. They are generally formed by adding the suffix “-est.”

Adverbs in their basic forms are sometimes known as being in the **positive degree**.

The way in which an adverb shifts from the basic degree to the comparative and superlative degrees is known as the **Degrees of Comparison**.

Adverbial Phrases

An **adverbial phrase** (also known as an **adverb phrase**) is a group of words that functions as an adverb in a sentence. These can be adverbs modified by other adverbs, adverbial prepositional phrases, or adverbial infinitive phrases.

Adverbs modified by mitigators and intensifiers

Adverbial phrases are commonly formed when an adverb's intensity is being modified by another adverb. These modifying adverbs are known as **mitigators**, which decrease the intensity of the main adverb, and **intensifiers**, which increase its intensity. For example:

- “The kicker is running **somewhat slowly** back to the bench. He might be injured.” (mitigator)
- “She performed **very well** on her exam.” (intensifier)

Prepositional phrases

Prepositional phrases are often used adverbially in a sentence. For example:

- “We were playing Frisbee **at the park**.”
- “**After they woke up**, they packed up their things and went on a hike.”

Infinitive phrases

We can also use infinitive phrases as adverbial phrases in a sentence to describe purpose or reason for an action or state of being. For instance:

- “Patricia went to the mountains **to go for a hike**.”
- “I’m so happy **to be your friend**.”

Adverbial Clauses

An **adverbial clause**, or **adverb clause**, is a group of words that contains a **subject** and a **predicate verb** and is used, like a regular adverb, to modify adjectives, verbs, and adverbs.

Adverbial clauses use **subordinating conjunctions** to connect them to **independent clauses**; the way an adverbial clause modifies an element in a sentence depends on the kind of subordinating conjunction used. For example:

- “I will arrive **when dinner is ready**.” (adverbial clause of time)
- “Peter brings his sunglasses **everywhere he goes**.” (adverbial clause of place)
- “I admire you **because you are an inspiration to many people**.” (adverbial clause of purpose)
- “They’ll approve your request **provided you pay the appropriate amount of money**.” (adverbial clause of condition)
- “She looked excited, **as if she could jump up and dance at any moment**.” (adverbial clause of comparison or manner)
- “**Although she doesn’t have much money**, Wendy often goes traveling.” (adverbial clause of contrast)

Order of Adverbs

Adverbs can appear almost anywhere in a sentence

If we use more than one adverb to describe a verb, though, there is a general order in which the different categories of adverbs should appear—this is known as the **order of adverbs** (sometimes called the **royal order of adverbs**):

1. **Adverbs of Manner**
2. **Adverbs of Place**
3. **Adverbs of Frequency**

4. Adverbs of Time

5. Adverbs of Purpose

However, we'll see in that section that there is still a lot of flexibility as to how we order adverbs in a sentence.

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. How are regular adverbs **generally** formed?

- a) By adding “-er” to the end of an adjective
- b) By adding “-est” to the end of an adjective
- c) By adding “-ly” to the end of an adjective
- d) By adding “-lier” to the end of an adjective

2. Which of the following **cannot** be used to create an adverbial phrase?

- a) Intensifiers
- b) Prepositional phrases
- c) Gerund phrases
- d) Infinitive phrases

3. Identify the category of the adverb (in **bold**) in the following sentence:

“I’m **pretty** happy with the way this turned out.”

- a) Adverb of degree
- b) Adverb of manner
- c) Focusing adverb
- d) Viewpoint adverb

4. Which of the following is used to create **adverbial clauses**?

- a) Correlative conjunctions
- b) Subordinating conjunctions
- c) Relative adverbs
- d) Coordinating conjunctions

5. Where can adverbs appear in a sentence?

- a) At the beginning
- b) In the middle

- c) At the end
- d) Anywhere in the sentence

Adverbs of Time

Definition

Adverbs of time tell us at what time (*when*) or for how long (*duration*) something happens or is the case. There is also a specific category of time adverbs that describe **frequency**, or *how often* something happens or is the case; however, their usage is a bit more complex, so we will examine those in a separate section.

Positioning

Adverbs of time are most often placed at the end of a sentence. For example:

- “I’m going to the movies **tomorrow**.” (When are you going? *Tomorrow*.)
- “She left **yesterday**.” (When did she leave? *Yesterday*.)
- “We are eating **now**.” (When are we eating? *Now*.)

However, we can sometimes place adverbs of time at the beginning of the sentence to put an extra emphasis on the time or duration being described. They are usually offset by a comma if appearing at the beginning of the sentence, although this is not always necessary. For example:

- “**Next year**, I’m going to run for president.” (Emphasizes a point in time.)
- “**Now**, I have to start the whole project again from scratch.” (Emphasizes *now* in a sequence of events.)
- “**For 17 years** we’ve been dating, and not once has he proposed!” (Emphasizes the duration of time.)

Special exceptions

The majority of time-related adverbs appear at the end of a sentence (or the beginning, for emphasis), but there are a few exceptions to this rule.

Later

The adverb *later*, in addition to its normal placement at the end or beginning of a

sentence, can also be placed immediately after the main verb. This creates a formal tone to the sentence, as might be found in official reports or in newspaper articles. Compare these three sentences:

- “She spoke to an adviser **later**.” (A simple sentence with no particular emphasis.)
- “**Later**, she spoke to an adviser.” (Extra emphasis on when she spoke to the advisor.)
- “She **later** spoke to an adviser.” (Slightly formal tone, as might be used by someone reporting the sequence of events to someone else.)

Yet

As an adverb of time, the word *yet* is used primarily in **negative** sentences or in questions. It can appear at the end of the sentence, or it can follow the word *not* before the main verb in a negative sentence. It does not appear at the beginning of the sentence (except when it functions as a **conjunction**, rather than an adverb). Here are some examples:

- “He hasn’t gone to the doctor **yet**.”
- “We have not **yet** sold our house.”
- “Have you finished your homework **yet**?”

However, *yet* can also be used after **auxiliary verbs** and before the main verb in positive sentences to talk about a future possibility, as in:

- “I *have* **yet** to decide whether I’m leaving.”
- “They *may* **yet** file for bankruptcy.”
- “Things *could* **yet** improve in the region.”
- “We *might* **yet** be able to strike a deal with them.”

Still

The adverb of time *still* is used to describe something that is continuously happening. *Still* comes before the main verb of the sentence in questions, if used before *not* in negative sentences, or if used after auxiliary verbs in positive sentences about the future:

- “Are you **still** working on that project?”
- “He’s **still** *not* sure about how to proceed.”

- “I *am still* thinking about moving to Europe.”

The adverb *still* can also be used with the **modal auxiliary verbs** *may*, *might*, *can*, and *could* to describe something that was a possibility in the past, and which could possibly happen in the future. In this case, it has the same meaning as *yet*, and the two are all but interchangeable (though *yet* sounds a little bit more formal). Here are the same sentences we looked at with *yet*, but this time using *still* instead:

- “They *may still* file for bankruptcy.”
- “Things *could still* improve in the region.”
- “We *might still* be able to strike a deal with them.”

Adverbs of Duration – *For* and *Since*

When we want to talk about for how long something happens or is the case, we generally use the prepositions *for* and *since* along with a determiner of time. When we use *for*, we pair it with a word or words that specify a **length of time**; with *since*, on the other hand, we use specific **points in time**. Both usually occur at the end of the sentence, unless they are being followed by infinitive or a prepositional phrases. And, as we’ve seen already, they can also be used at the beginning of the sentence to add emphasis.

Here are a few examples of each:

for

- “I have been running *for three hours*.”
- “They have been waiting *for two months* to be seen by a doctor.”
- “*For 10 years*, we’ve seen this country’s economy continue to decline.”

since

- “Our computer systems have been having issues *since last week*.”
- “We have been looking *since September* for a place to live.”
- “*Since we were kids*, we’ve always dreamed of being astronauts.” (The phrase *we were kids* in this sentence might seem like it should be “**the time when we were kids**,” but because it is used with *since*, the shorter version is acceptable.)

In Proper Order

Remember, adverbs of time can be used to describe three different aspects: **duration**, **frequency**, and *certain points in time (when)*. If we are using multiple adverbs of time in the same sentence, and if there is no special emphasis given to one aspect over another, then that is the order in which they generally appear. Even if one of the three aspects is omitted, the other two still maintain their position in relation to each other. Here are some examples:

- “I went door to door **for two hours** every afternoon *last year*.”
- “He will be traveling **for two years** *after college*.”
- “The train runs hourly *in the fall*.”

If one aspect of time is being given particular emphasis in the sentence, then it generally comes later in the order. Let’s look at the first sentence arranged in a different order:

- “I went door to door every afternoon *last year* **for two hours**.”

As we can see, **for two hours** is given stronger emphasis than either every afternoon or *last year*.

Notice as well that each adverb of duration is made using *for*; we can’t use *since* in the same way with multiple adverbs. For instance, we can see how the following would not make any sense:

- ✘ “She’s known him **since high school** each day *this year*.” (incorrect)

If we are using *since* to indicate duration along with other adverbs of time in the same sentence, then it must come after adverbs of frequency (or at the beginning of the sentence), and it can only be used with certain kinds of verbs. For example:

- “We’ve spoken to each other every day **since high school**.”
- “**Since my operation**, I’ve been getting stronger every day.”
- “He’s been feeling dizzy frequently **since his car accident** *last spring*.”

Sources of confusion

Soon vs. Early

When we say, “I arrived early,” it means before the expected or required time. It

can also be used in the future tense, as in “I will arrive early.”

We use *soon*, on the other hand, for a future time frame; it isn’t used in the past.

For instance, if we say, “I will see you **soon**,” it means *in a short time* (the near future). We cannot say “I saw you **soon**,” because it cannot be used in the past tense.

Any longer vs. Any more vs. No longer

Any longer and *any more* (or *anymore*, see below) are synonyms, and they can be used interchangeably.

When we use *any longer* or *any more*, we need to use *don’t/doesn’t* because the adverbs express a negative relationship with time. No matter which adverb you use, it is important that they are positioned at the end of the sentence.

However, when we use *no longer*, it comes between the subject and the verb. In contrast to *any longer* or *any more*, it is used in positive sentences because it **makes** the sentence negative. It would be wrong to say, for example, “He doesn’t work there *no longer*”—this creates a double negative and makes the sentence positive, therefore creating the opposite meaning to what was intended.

Let’s take a look at some examples in order to clarify.

- “I don’t work for that company **any longer**.”
- “I don’t eat meat **anymore**.”
- “I **no longer** work for that company.”
- “I **no longer** eat meat.”

Anymore vs. Any more

In American English, people often use these two terms interchangeably as adverbs of time. Outside of America, though, using *anymore* is more rare, and some even consider it to be incorrect. Therefore, it is better to avoid using it outside of American English. Also, because *anymore* is considered by some to be an informal, modern coinage, it is safer to avoid using it in formal writing as well.

However, if we are talking about an *amount* of something, we must only use *any more*. This is because *more* is used as an adjective describing the amount of a noun,

with *any* modifying *more*. For instance:

✗ “I don’t want **anymore** pasta. I’m full.” (incorrect)

✓ “I don’t want **any more** pasta. I’m full.” (correct)

No longer vs. no more

The phrase *no more* cannot be used interchangeably with *no longer*. While it **can** technically function as an adverb, it is very rarely used this way and would usually sound quite awkward or contrived. It is much more often used as a pronoun phrase meaning “no further amount (of something).” Here are some examples showing correct and incorrect uses:

✓ “He **no longer** works here.” (correct)

✗ “He **no more** works here.” (incorrect)

✓ “We will tolerate **no more**.” (correct)

✗ “We will tolerate **no longer**.” (incorrect)

• “I love you **no more**.” (technically correct, but very awkward)

• “I love you **no longer**.” (more correct, but still awkward)

• “I **no longer** love you” **or** “I don’t love you **any more**.” (most correct)

That having been said, a common slang expression is to use *no more* as an adverb in a negative sentence, as in, “He doesn’t work there **no more**.” This is grammatically incorrect, but slang very often ignores or upends common grammatical rules.

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. What are the three different categories of adverbs of time?

- a) Manner, duration, and frequency
- b) Points in time, duration, and place
- c) Points in time, duration, and frequency
- d) Duration, frequency, and degree

2. Where do the **majority** of adverbs of time appear in a sentence?

- a) At the beginning of the sentence

- b) After the verb they modify
- c) Before the verb they modify
- d) At the end of the sentence

3. Which adverb of time **cannot** appear at the beginning of a sentence?

- a) yet
- b) still
- c) for
- d) since
- d) A & B
- e) B & C
- f) C & D

4. Identify the adverb of time used in the following sentence:

“I quickly realized that if we wanted the job done next year, we would have to work hard and fast.”

- a) quickly
- b) next year
- c) hard
- d) fast

5. Which of the following adverbs of time can be used to complete the following sentence?

“They _____ plan to drive to Mexico.”

- a) no longer
- b) any more
- c) any longer
- d) no more

Adverbs of Place

Definition

Adverbs of place tell us about an aspect of location associated with the action of a verb, specifying the direction, distance, movement, or position involved in the action. Because adverbs of place are specific to actions of verbs, they cannot be used to modify adverbs or adjectives (with one exception, as we shall see).

We'll first look at where such adverbs are used in a sentence, and then we'll examine the different types of adverbs of place.

Position in a sentence

Adverbs of place generally appear immediately after the main verb in a sentence if it is **intransitive**, or else after the verb's object if it is **transitive**.

For example:

- “We were walking **north**.” (intransitive—adverb follows the verb)
- “He kicked the ball **into the field**.” (transitive—adverb follows the object)
- “My friend is moving **far away**.” (intransitive—adverb follows the verb)
- “The wind keeps scattering sand **everywhere**.” (transitive—adverb follows the object)

Adverbial prepositional phrases can also be placed at the beginning of the sentence. Doing so adds a large amount of emphasis to the location they describe. However, the resulting sentences are more likely to be found in literary writing; they might sound out of place or contrived in day-to-day English. For example:

- “**In this house** we have lived our entire lives.”
- “**Outside the office**, I could hear my parents talking to the principal.”
- “**Across the meadow** I spied a beautiful woman.”

Adverbs ending in “-ward” or “-wards” (such as *homeward(s)*, *eastward(s)*, *onward(s)*, etc.) can appear at or near the beginning of a sentence to put emphasis on their description as well. Again, this creates a more literary style to the writing, and wouldn't be suited to everyday speech or writing. For example:

- “**Onwards** we marched, hoping to arrive before sunset.”

- “Ever **upwards** the mighty redwood trees grow.”

The only adverbs of place that *are* very commonly used at the beginning of sentences are the adverbs *here* and *there*. As with the others, this adds emphasis to the location or direction being described, and we can also use them in this way to create exclamations. For instance:

- “**Here** is the book I was telling you about.”
- “**There** is the rest of the team!”

Now that we’ve seen where in a sentence the adverbs of place go, let’s look at the various types that we can use.

Types of adverbs of place

Adverbs of direction

Many adverbs of place indicate a specific direction of movement. For example:

- *up, down, across, north, south, east, west.*

Here are a few example sentences illustrating their use:

- “The house is situated **north** of the city.”
- “Let’s drive **down** a bit farther.”
- “They walked **across the field**.”

Adverbs of movement and direction

There are also adverbs of place that end in “-ward” or “-wards” that describe movement in particular directions, as in *homeward(s)*, *backward(s)*, *forward(s)*, or *onward(s)*. While quite similar to the adverbs of direction we looked already, they add a sense of continual movement along with the direction they specify.

Here are some examples used in sentences:

- “We headed **eastwards**.”
- “The people all gazed **upwards** at the meteor shower.”
- “You should always go **forward** in life.” (Describes metaphorical rather than physical direction and movement.)

In each instance, the word can include an “s” or not; they are interchangeable, so use whichever sounds better.

Toward and towards

Toward (or *towards*), while very similar to the above adverbs, is actually a **preposition**—it cannot stand alone as an adverb. It must be followed by a noun to create a prepositional phrase, which can then function adverbially to describe movement, as in:

- “I saw them coming **toward me**.”
- “He walked **towards the car**.”

Also note that while *toward*, without an “s,” is more common in American English, *towards*, with an “s,” is more common in British English.

Adverbs of location

These adverbs all indicate the location of someone or something in relation to someone or something else. They can each function either as adverbs, in which case they stand alone, or as prepositions, in which case they are followed by nouns to form adverbial prepositional phrases. Here are a few common adverbs related to position that can also function as prepositions:

- *behind, inside, outside, next to, between, over*

Let’s look at some examples where these stand alone as adverbs, and then we’ll look at the same words functioning as prepositions.

As adverbs

- “We were waiting **outside**.”
- “I kicked the ball **around**.”
- “The others started lagging **behind**.”

As prepositions

- “We were waiting **outside his office**.”
- “I kicked the ball **around the field**.”
- “The others started lagging **behind us**.”

Adverbs of movement and location

Just as the “-ward(s)” adverbs indicated both movement and direction, other

adverbs of place can be used to indicate both movement and *location*. Examples of these include *indoors*, *inside*, *outdoors*, *outside*, *uphill*, *downhill* and *abroad*.

Here are some sentences where these are used to describe both movement and location:

- "Our mother told us to go play **outside** for a while."
- "I absolutely hate running **uphill**."
- "They're thinking of going **abroad** for their vacation."

Note that, depending on the verb they are modifying, some of these may only describe location, as in "I am living *abroad*" or "I like camping *outdoors*." These verbs do not indicate movement-based actions, and so the accompanying adverbs only specify location.

Unspecified location or direction

Everywhere, *somewhere*, *anywhere*, and *nowhere* are adverbs of place. They describe locations or directions that are indefinite or unspecific. For example:

- "I looked **everywhere** for my book."
- "I would like to go **somewhere** tropical for my birthday."
- "You're going **nowhere**!"
- "Is there **anywhere** to sit down?"

In less formal speech or writing, "place" can be used instead of "where," thus creating *everyplace*, *someplace*, *anyplace*, and *no place*. Note that only the last of these is made into two words.

Here and there

Here and *there* are adverbs of place that relate specifically to the speaker. *Here* indicates a location or direction that is with, towards, or near to the speaker, while *there* indicates a location or direction that is away from, not near to, or not with the speaker.

For example:

- "I put my book **there**."
- "Yes, you can sit down **here**."
- "Let's go **there** for our trip."

- “Turn **here**, please.”

And, as we mentioned earlier in this section, both *here* and *there* can be used at the beginning of sentences to emphasize the location they are describing or to create exclamations:

- “**There’s** the restaurant we were looking for.”
- “**Here** I am!”

It may seem like *there* in the first example is functioning as the subject of the verb *is*, but it is actually functioning as an adverb. In this construction, the subject (*the restaurant*) is inverted with the verb *is*.

As the object of a preposition

Here and *there* are also often combined with prepositions to create more specific references to location. Note that, because they are the objects of prepositions, they are functioning as nouns in this case rather than adverbs. For instance:

- “Please put the table **over there**.”
- “Why are the keys **up here**?”
- “Don’t put your muddy boots **on there**!”
- “It’s rather hot **in here**.”

With the adjective *bound*

We’ve already mentioned that adverbs of place are not used to describe adjectives, but there is one unique adjective that *can* take adverbs of place: the adjective *bound* (meaning “heading, or intending to head, in a given direction”). Note that only adverbs or adverbial phrases specifying direction can be used with this, as in:

- **homeward bound**
- **bound south**
- **bound for home**

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. What are generally **not** modified by adverbs of place?
 - a) verbs
 - b) adverbs

- c) adjectives
- d) B & C
- e) A & C

2. If an adverb of place is modifying an **intransitive** verb, where is it **usually** located in a sentence?

- a) Immediately before the verb it modifies
- b) Immediately after the verb it modifies
- c) Immediately after the object of the verb
- d) B & C

3. Which of the following adverbs of place is used to describe both **movement** and **direction**?

- a) here
- b) outside
- c) onwards
- d) everywhere

4. Identify the adverb of place in the following sentence:
“Hastily, he fell silent and withdrew into his study.”

- a) hastily
- b) silent
- c) into
- d) into his study

5. Which of the following is an adverb of place?

- a) abroad
- b) resoundingly
- c) very
- d) generally

6. Which of the following is **not** an adverb of place?

- a) east
- b) out
- c) toward
- d) upward

Adverbs of Manner

Definition

Adverbs of manner are used to tell us how something happens or is done. They can modify verbs, adjectives, or clauses of a sentence.

Creating adverbs of manner

Adverbs of manner are very often formed from adjectives by simply adding “-ly.” For example:

- “She is a *beautiful* singer.” (*Beautiful* is an adjective. It describes the noun “singer.”)
- “She sings **beautifully**.” (*Beautifully* is an adverb of manner. It describes the verb “sing.” How does she sing? She sings *beautifully*.)
- “He is a *slow* walker.” (*Slow* is an adjective describing the noun *walker*.)
- “He walks **slowly**.” (*Slowly* is an adverb of manner. How does he walk? *Slowly*.)

Changes in spelling

Sometimes the spelling of a word will have to change slightly so as to better accommodate the extra “-ly.” If the adjective ends in “-ic,” for instance, it will usually become “-ically”:

- “They are *enthusiastic* students.”
- “They work **enthusiastically**.”

If the adjective ends in a “-y,” it usually becomes “-ily”:

- “The children are *happy* when they are playing.”
- “The children are playing **happily**.”

And if it ends in “-le,” the “e” on the end is dropped to make “-ly”:

- “He is a *terrible* golfer.”
- “He plays golf **terribly**.”

If an adjective already ends in “-ly,” we can give it an adverbial function by simply using it in the adverbial **prepositional phrase** “in a _____ manner”:

- “They played **in a lively manner**.”
- “Please arrive **in a timely manner**.”

Irregular adverbs

There are a number of exceptions to these spelling rules, though, which are known as **irregular adverbs**. Here are some irregular adverbs of manner:

- The adjectives *straight*, *fast*, and *hard* all remain the same (with no “-ly” ending) when they function as adverbs.
- The adjective *wrong* can become *wrongly*, or simply remain *wrong*—both are acceptable. However, *wrong* as an adverb **must** come after the verb if modifies (as in “I guessed *wrong*” or “he filled out the form *wrong*”), but *wrongly* can be used both before or after the word it modifies (as in “**wrongly** accused” or “judged **wrongly**”).
- Finally, *well* is the irregular adverb of the adjective *good*—but *well* can be used as an **adjective**, too!

(There are more irregular adverbs than the ones above. Go to the chapter on **Regular and Irregular Adverbs** to learn more.)

Adverbial Phrases

As we saw above, phrases can also function as adverbs in a sentence. These are called **adverbial phrases**, or sometimes simply **adverbials**.

Besides the ones we looked at above, other prepositional phrases can also function as adverbs of manner. For example:

- “They left **in a hurry**.”
- “He lived **without a care**.”

We can also use similes with the word *like* to describe manner in metaphorical terms. For instance:

- “I slept **like a baby** last night.”
- “He ran out **like a shot**.”

Positioning

The position we use for adverbs of manner depends on whether they are modifying a verb, a clause, or an adjective.

Modifying verbs

Adverbs of manner most commonly come directly after **intransitive verbs** that they modify. If the verb is **transitive**, then the adverb must not immediately follow the verb; it can either come before the verb or after the **direct object**. For example:

- “He *speaks* **well**.” (intransitive)
- “She *walked* **slowly**.” (intransitive)
- ✗ “Janet *wrote* **beautifully** the letter.” (transitive—incorrect)
- ✓ “Janet *wrote* the letter **beautifully**.” (transitive—correct)

Rearranging the order

You may have noticed that in the second example we can put the adverb first: “She quickly walked” is perfectly correct, and it adds a bit more emphasis to *quickly*. The adverb can also come before a transitive verb, as in “Janet slowly sang a song.”

However, for simple sentences that don’t require extra emphasis, it is better to have the adverb come after the verb. (And, in some instances, the adverb **can’t** come first. For example, “he **well** *speaks*” is clearly incorrect.)

Modifying clauses

Adverbs of manner can also come at the beginning of the sentence, usually set apart by a comma, which serves to modify the entire clause and add a lot of emphasis to the adverb. Consider these two examples:

- “**Quietly**, he *held the candle aloft*.”
- “He **quietly** *held* the candle aloft.”

Although they are both quite close in meaning, we can see how the first sentence places much more emphasis on the adverb *quietly*. In the second example, the adverb is only modifying the verb *held*, so its impact on the sentence is less intense.

Adjectives

Adverbs of manner can also be used to describe adjectives, giving them an extra depth or dimension of character. In contrast to verbs, adverbs of manner always

come before the adjective they modify; this order cannot change. For example:

- ✓ “The book was **beautifully** *profound*.” (correct)
- ✓ “The prisoner remained **stoically** *silent*.” (correct)
- ✗ “Darling, you are *brave* **wonderfully**.” (incorrect)

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. What is the most **common** way to form an adverb of manner?
 - a) Use an adjective in the phrase “in a _____ manner”
 - b) Add “-ly” to the end of the adjective
 - c) Use “like” or “as” to form a simile
 - d) You have to know them by heart

2. How is an adverb formed from an adjective ending in “-ic”?
 - a) By adding “-ly”
 - b) By dropping the “-ic” and adding “-y”
 - c) By using the adjective in the phrase “in a _____ manner”
 - d) By changing the ending to “-ically”

3. Where does an adverb of manner come in a sentence if it is modifying a **clause**?
 - a) At the beginning of the sentence
 - b) At the end of the clause
 - c) Immediately after the noun
 - d) A & B
 - e) B & C
 - f) A & C
 - g) None of the above

4. Which of the following is an **adverb of manner**?
 - a) strongly
 - b) hourly
 - c) usually
 - d) very

5. Identify the **adverb of manner** in the following sentence:

“I never knew how absolutely lovely it is to have such wonderfully loyal friends like them.”

- a) never
- b) absolutely
- c) wonderfully
- d) lovely
- e) like them

Adverbs of Degree

Definition

Adverbs of degree are used to indicate the intensity, degree, or extent of the verb, adjective, or adverb they are modifying. They always appear before the adjective, verb, or other adverb they describe (except for the adverb *enough*, which we'll look at further on.)

Degrees of strength

Adverbs of degree can be **mild**, **medium**, **strong**, or **absolute** in how they describe the intensity, degree, or extent of the word they modify.

Adverbs that are mild, medium, or strong are known as **grading adverbs**; those that describe an absolute state or degree are known as **non-grading adverbs**.

Sometimes a grading adverb of degree can change in strength depending on the verb, adverb, or adjective it describes. Non-grading adverbs, on the other hand, always describe absolute states or degrees.

Here are some examples of adverbs of degree:

- “He **undoubtedly** stole the money.” (Absolute; non-grading)
- “He is **definitely** coming to the party.” (Absolute; non-grading)
- “It’s **absolutely** freezing outside.” (Absolute; non-grading)
- “She is **very** sorry for her bad behavior.” (Strong; grading)
- “I **really** love reading good books.” (Strong; grading)
- “Are you **quite** certain?” (Absolute; quite is a grading adverb, but it can describe absolute states when paired with **non-gradable adjectives**, which we will look at below.)
- “She’s **quite** mad.” (Strong)

- “I **quite** like Indian food.” (Medium)
- “My camera was **pretty** expensive.” (Medium)
- “It’s **a bit** cold outside.” (Medium or mild, depending on the speaker’s emphasis.)
- “It will take **a bit** longer to complete.” (Mild)
- “We were **somewhat** surprised.” (Mild)

Adverbs of degree with gradable vs. non-gradable adjectives

Gradable adjectives are those that can have measurable levels of degree or intensity. **Non-gradable adjectives**, on the other hand, describe an extreme or absolute state. Here are some examples of gradable versus non-gradable adjectives:

Gradable	Non-gradable
small	tiny
cold	freezing
hot	boiling
difficult	impossible
sad	devastated

Because non-gradable adjective describe an absolute state, they can generally only be modified by **non-grading** adverbs of degree. These serve to emphasize the extreme nature of the adjective. Likewise, gradable adjectives are generally only paired with **grading** adverbs of degree. For example, the following would be **incorrect**:

✗ Non-grading adverb with gradable adjective	✗ Grading adverb with non-gradable adjective
absolutely small	a bit tiny
utterly cold	dreadfully freezing

fully hot	unusually boiling
virtually difficult	extremely impossible
completely sad	slightly devastated

However, we can see how they become **correct** if we reverse the adverbs of degree:

✓ Grading adverb with gradable adjective	✓ Non-grading adverb with non-gradable adjective
a bit small	absolutely tiny
dreadfully cold	utterly freezing
unusually hot	fully boiling
extremely difficult	virtually impossible
slightly sad	completely devastated

There are exceptions to this rule, however: the adverbs *really*, *fairly*, *pretty*, and *quite* can all be used with both gradable and non-gradable adjectives:

really small	really tiny
pretty cold	pretty freezing
fairly difficult	fairly impossible
quite sad	quite devastated

Note that in informal speech or writing, many grammar rules are often ignored, misused, or misunderstood, so you may come across non-grading adverbs used with gradable adjectives (e.g., “utterly surprised,” “absolutely interested”) or grading adverbs used with non-gradable adjectives (e.g., “extremely certain,” “very tiny”). However, other than the exceptions listed above, this usage should be avoided, especially in formal or professional writing.

Enough as an adverb of degree

The word *enough* can be used as another adverb of degree, meaning “sufficiently or to a satisfactory amount or degree,” “very, fully, or quite,” or “tolerably.” Unlike other adverbs of degree, though, *enough* can only modify adverbs and adjectives, and it always comes after the word it is describing in a sentence. For example:

- “He didn’t finish the exam quickly **enough**.”
- “I’ll be happy **enough** to be back home.”
- “The play was interesting **enough**, but I wouldn’t go see it again.”

Enough as an adjective

If *enough* appears before a noun that it modifies, then it is functioning as a determiner (a type of adjective) meaning “adequate or sufficient to meet a need or desire,” as in “I have had **enough** food, thanks!”

Enough as a pronoun

It may also seem like *enough* can be used as an adverb to describe verbs, as in “I’ve had **enough**,” or “you’ve studied **enough**,” but be careful: in such instances, *enough* is actually functioning as an **indefinite pronoun**, meaning “an adequate or sufficient amount (of something).” *Enough* **cannot** modify verbs.

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. What is the **adverb of degree** used in the sentence below?
“I will happily do as you ask, but it will take a bit of time, so I will try to work very quickly.”
 - a) happily
 - b) a bit
 - c) very
 - d) quickly
2. Where does an adverb of degree **usually** appear in a sentence?
 - a) Before the word it modifies
 - b) After the word it modifies

- c) After a linking verb
- d) Before a noun

3. Which of the following is a **non-grading** adverb of degree?

- a) very
- b) rather
- c) extremely
- d) utterly

4. Which of the following adverbs can be used with both **gradable** and **non-gradable** adjectives?

- a) virtually
- b) really
- c) extremely
- d) enough

5. Select the appropriate adverb of degree to fill in the blank:

“I know I didn’t ace the exam, but I think I did well _____.”

- a) really
- b) enough
- c) somewhat
- d) a bit

Mitigators

Definition

Mitigators, a subset of **adverbs of degree**, are adverbs or *adverbials* (groups of words that function as adverbs) that modify adjectives and adverbs to reduce their intensity, making them seem less extreme or powerful. The following are all examples of mitigators:

- **rather**
- **pretty**
- **slightly**
- **fairly**
- **a bit**
- **a little bit**

- **just a bit**
- **just a little bit**
- **a little**

Here are some examples of mitigators being used in sentences:

- “The movie was **rather** *dull*.”
- “He thought that the parade was **just a bit** *too long*.”
- “The runner performed **fairly** *well*, but not well enough to win the race.”
- “The sky was **slightly** *red* and *orange* at the time of the sunset.”
- “They were all **a little** *annoyed* that the fair had been cancelled due to rain.”
- “The cake was **pretty** *good*, but not excellent.”
- “I can jump **pretty** *high* for my height.”

Difference from intensifiers

Mitigators are the opposite of **intensifiers**, which are used to increase the intensity of the words they modify. Knowing what the main intensifiers are, as well as how they are used, makes it easier to tell the difference between these two different types of adverbs. Here are some of the most commonly used intensifiers:

- **very**
- **remarkably**
- **extremely**
- **amazingly**
- **incredibly**
- **completely**
- **exceptionally**
- **super**
- **really**

Here are some examples of intensifiers in sentences:

- “The weather was **exceptionally** *warm*.”
- “The scenery on the train ride from New York to Chicago was **incredibly** *beautiful*.”
- “Her mind was **completely** *focused* on getting her coffee in the morning.”
- “The ocean was **very** *cool* when he jumped in.”

- “Your appointment was **really** *long*.”
- “All of the students did **remarkably** *well* on the exam.”

Now, let’s look at some sentences that have both mitigators and intensifiers. Notice how each one is used to modify its respective adjective or adverb in a different way:

- “The line was **fairly** *short* for the **extremely** *scary* roller coaster.”
- “You were **pretty** *late* for the show, but the singer was **incredibly** *late*!”
- “Some trees in the forest were **exceptionally** *tall*, but some were **just a bit** *taller* than me.”

Notice that in all of these sentences, the mitigators reduce the intensity of the adjectives that they modify, while the intensifiers increase the intensity.

Importance in sentences

Adjectives and adverbs help to describe the quality of something or its actions. However, adjectives and adverbs on their own often cannot produce the exact level of description we want when speaking or writing. For example, consider the following sentence:

- “The rapids looked *dangerous*.”

This implies that the river might not be safe for recreational activities. However, the meaning of the sentence can change significantly if a mitigator is added. For example:

- “The rapids looked **slightly** *dangerous*.”

By adding the mitigator *slightly* before the adjective *dangerous*, the whole meaning of the sentence is changed. Now the rapids seem much less hazardous; they could potentially be safe if the person is very careful.

Here is another example:

- “The vacation was *boring*.”

vs.

- “The vacation was **a bit** *boring*.”

The mitigator *a bit* implies that the vacation wasn't completely boring. It also implies an element of surprise or disappointment, as if the speaker expected the vacation not to be boring.

Here is one last example:

- “Henry felt *excited* to meet his long lost relative for the first time.”

vs.

- “Henry felt **a little** *excited* to meet his long lost relative for the first time.”

In the second sentence, the mitigator *a little* reduces the intensity of the adjective *excited*. This change not only results in the man being less excited, it now also carries a possible implication that he was not looking forward to meeting his relative before, or that he was not expecting to be excited.

Small changes such as we’ve seen can have both minute and profound impacts on what we write and the way we speak.

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. Which of the following words is a mitigator?

- a) rather
- b) cold
- c) quickly
- d) extremely

2. Identify the mitigator in the following sentence.

“Kevin quickly decided that he was having a pretty good day after all.”

- a) good
- b) decided
- c) quickly
- d) pretty

3. Which of the following words or group of words is **not** a mitigator?

- a) slightly
- b) just a little bit
- b) amazingly
- d) fairly

4. Mitigators do which of the following things?

- a) increase the intensity of an adjective or adverb
- b) reduce the intensity of an adjective or adverb
- c) replace other words in the sentence

d) eliminate the need for punctuation

5. Mitigators act as which part of speech in a sentence?

- a) adjective
- b) noun
- c) adverb
- d) subject

Intensifiers

Definition

Intensifiers, a subset of **adverbs of degree**, are adverbs or *adverbials* (groups of words that function as adverbs) that modify adjectives and other adverbs to increase their strength, power, or intensity. The following words are all examples of intensifiers:

- **very**
- **remarkably**
- **extremely**
- **amazingly**
- **incredibly**
- **completely**
- **exceptionally**
- **super**
- **really**

Here are some examples of intensifiers being used in sentences:

- “The soup was **very** *hot*, so he put it down.”
- “The park in the middle of the city was **amazingly** *beautiful*.”
- “You were **completely** *sure* that you had done the assignment correctly.”
- “Sunlight in spring feels **incredibly** *uplifting* after a long, cold winter.”
- “Everyone was **really** *excited* to go to the beach and go swimming in the ocean.”
- “They were all **remarkably** *moved* by the movie they saw in the theatre.”
- “This table was crafted **really** *beautifully*.”

Difference from mitigators

Intensifiers are the opposite of **mitigators**, which are used to decrease the intensity of the words they modify. Knowing what the main intensifiers are, as well as how they are used, makes it easier to tell the difference between these two different types of adverbs. Here are some of the most commonly used mitigators:

- **rather**
- **pretty**
- **slightly**
- **fairly**
- **a bit**
- **a little bit**
- **just a bit**
- **just a little bit**
- **a little**

Here are some examples of mitigators being used in sentences:

- “The eagle flew over the **fairly large** canyon before it swooped to the ground for a landing.”
- “After eating dinner, everyone in the room was **a little bit full**.”
- “When Sarah stepped outside, she noticed that the weather seemed **just a bit chilly**.”
- “All the players on the soccer team **were slightly** nervous before stepping out onto the field for the big game.”
- “The woman sang **pretty well**, but it was clear she was not a professional.”

Let’s examine some sentences that contain both intensifiers and mitigators. Notice how each one is used to modify its respective adjective or adverb in a different way:

- “The dog was **rather tired**, so he took a **very long** nap in his favorite spot.”
- “The spring blossoms looked **incredibly gorgeous** in the **fairly strong** sunlight.”
- “Timothy was claiming that everything he was saying was **completely true**, but it still seemed **just a little bit suspicious**.”
- “The book was **really entertaining**; however, she thought the ending was **a bit**

anti-climactic.”

In each of these sentences, the intensifier strengthens the intensity of the adjective that it modifies while the mitigator weakens its adjective.

Importance in sentences

Intensifiers not only elevate adjectives and adverbs to higher levels of intensity. In many circumstances, the way adjectives and adverbs are described can drastically impact their meaning in a sentence. For example, consider the following sentence:

- “The 5k race around the city was *tough*.”

In this sentence, the adjective *tough* informs you that the race was challenging, but we don’t know any more than that. However, adding an intensifier can change the whole description of the race:

- “The 5k race around the city was **incredibly** *tough*.”

By simply adding the intensifier *incredibly*, the race comes across as being much more challenging, perhaps more challenging than the speaker expected or was able to handle. Here is another example:

- “When the ship was leaving the harbor, the waves were *choppy*.”

vs.

- “When the ship was leaving the harbor, the waves were **extremely** *choppy*.”

There is a large difference between *choppy* and *extremely choppy* waves. Such a difference could mean that a storm is coming in, and the ship may even have to turn back due to danger. Once again, the intensifier modifies its adjective and alters the sentence's meaning in the process. Here is one final example to illustrate this concept:

- “The old bridge was *safe* to walk on.”

vs.

- “The old bridge was **very** *safe* to walk on.”

In the second sentence, the intensifier *very* implies that the bridge is still in excellent condition, and there is no danger whatsoever associated with walking on the bridge. The first sentence, however, only implies that the bridge is passable.

Small changes such as we’ve seen can have both minute and profound impacts on what we write and the way we speak.

Quiz

(answers start on page 610)

1. Which of the following is an intensifier?

- a) slowly
- b) just a little bit
- b) completely
- d) slightly

2. Identify the intensifier in the following sentence.

“Almost everyone in the group was incredibly excited to go sightseeing in New York City.”

- a) almost
- b) go
- c) excited
- d) incredibly

3. Which of the following words is **not** an intensifier?

- a) fairly
- b) amazingly
- c) super
- d) really

4. Which part of speech do intensifiers function as in a sentence?

- a) adjective
- b) noun
- c) adverb
- d) subject

5. Which part(s) of speech do intensifiers modify?

- a) nouns
- b) adjectives
- c) verbs
- d) adverbs
- e) A & C
- f) B & D

g) All of the above

Adverbs of Frequency

Definition

Adverbs of frequency (sometimes called **frequency adverbs**) tell us how often something happens or is the case; they can describe verbs and adjectives, but they do not modify other adverbs.

Range of frequency

Frequency adverbs can range in frequency from 100% of the time (always) to 0% of the time (never). The following table gives some examples of different adverbs expressing the full range of frequency:

Frequency	Definite Adverbs	Indefinite Adverbs
100%	every second	always
▲	hourly	usually
▲	daily	normally
▲	weekly	often
▲	monthly	sometimes
▲	quarterly	occasionally/infrequently/seldom
▲	yearly	rarely/hardly ever
0%	never	never

Notice how the frequency adverbs above are split into two categories: definite and indefinite. Let's take a look at each.

Adverbs of definite frequency

Adverbs of **definite** frequency describe a specific or exact range of time for when something occurs or is the case. Some common examples are:

- **yearly/annually**
- **biannually** (This can mean either twice a year or two times in a year, depending on context.)
- **quarterly** (Meaning four times in a year, at the end of every quarter.)
- **monthly**
- **weekly**
- **daily**
- **hourly**
- **every minute** (*Minutely* means the same thing, but is much less commonly used.)
- **every second** (We do not say *secondly*, because this means “in the second place.”)

Adverbs of definite frequency modify verbs and generally appear at the beginning or end of the sentence. (The “-ly” adverbs come **only** at the end, though.) If appearing at the beginning of a sentence, they are usually offset by a comma. For example:

- “I run eight miles **daily**.”
- “**Every year**, our office holds a big raffle for charity.”
- “He makes a point of going to his local bar **once a week**.”
- ✘ “**Hourly**, you need to update me on your progress.” (incorrect)

Note that most of the “-ly” adverbs above can also function as adjectives, as in “yearly meetings,” “monthly report,” “hourly updates,” etc.

Adverbs of indefinite frequency

The frequency adverbs that are used most often, however, are adverbs of **indefinite** frequency. As the name suggests, these are adverbs that give a sense of frequency but do **not** specify exactly how often something happens or is the case. Unlike definite frequency adverbs, these can modify both verbs and adjectives, but their usage for each differs.

Modifying verbs

Positioning

If they are modifying verbs, the adverbs of frequency usually come before the main verb in a sentence:

✗ “We *go* **usually** to the movies on Sundays.” (incorrect)

✓ “We **usually** *go* to the movies on Sundays.” (correct)

Here are some more examples:

- “Bethany **always** *runs* late for work in the morning.”
- “I **never** *get* what I want!”
- “We **seldom** *see* her anymore.”
- “He *travels* to Europe **frequently**.”

Notice how *frequently* appears at the end of the sentence in the last example. Certain frequency adverbs—*usually*, *sometimes*, *normally*, *occasionally*, *often*, and *frequently*—can appear at the beginning or end of a main clause as well as before the verb they modify. If they appear at the beginning, they are usually (but not always) followed by a comma.

For example:

- “**Usually**, I would go to the movies on Sundays, but not this time.”
- “He comes up to visit **sometimes**.”
- “**Occasionally** I’ll read a romance novel as a guilty pleasure.”

The adverbs *always*, *seldom*, *rarely*, *hardly ever*, and *never* can also appear at the end of a sentence or clause; however, they do not go at the beginning unless they are creating a special emphasis, in which case the sentence structure changes.

For example:

- “**Never** have I felt so insulted!”
- “**Rarely** does she leave the house unattended.”
- “**Seldom** is it that we part on good terms.”

Different tenses

Frequency adverbs are often used to modify verbs that are in the **present simple tense**, which is used when we speak about habits, general facts, and timetables.

However, we can also use them with other verb tenses. For example:

- “She **often** *traveled* when she lived in Spain.” (**Past simple tense**)
- “I *have* **rarely** *seen* the sun rise.” (**Present perfect tense**)

Notice that in the second example, the adverb *rarely* appears after the auxiliary verb *have* and before the main verb *seen*. This is always the case when we use auxiliary verbs:

- “She *will* **occasionally** *go* for walks alone.”
- “You *can* **seldom** *see* very far because of the fog.”
- “I *will* **never** *be* an actor!”

Notice that in the final example, *never* is modifying the **linking verb** *be* and appears before it. This is always the case if *be* is used with an auxiliary verb; most of the time, however, adverbs of frequency appear after the verb *be*. For example:

- “That *is* **often** the case.”
- “This class *is* **always** a bore!”
- “She *was* **never** very friendly.”

In the third example, the adverb of frequency is modifying an adjective, rather than the verb.

Modifying adjectives

Adverbs of frequency can also modify adjectives, in which case they come after the verb *be*. This is because *be* is a **linking verb** (not a main verb), and the adverbs modify the **predicative adjective(s)** associated with it.

For example, compare how the adverb of frequency *always* is used with the main verb *have* and the linking verb *be* in the following examples:

- “I **always** *have* lunch at one o’clock.”
- “I *am* **always** late for work.”

In the first sentence, *always* is modifying the verb *have*, whereas in the second sentence, it is modifying the adjective *late*. Here are some other examples:

- “The dog *is* **rarely** *quiet*.”
- “The trains *are* **occasionally** *late*, but they *are* **generally** *on time*.”
- “She *is* **often** *alone*, but I don’t think she *minds*.”

Putting extra emphasis on *be*

The only time adverbs of frequency come before the verb *be* (when it is not used