



Adverb - Definition, Types, Functions and Rules with Examples

Welcome to our blog on Adverbs, an essential topic in English Grammar that plays a crucial role in all competitive exams. Approximately 3 - 4 questions certainly appear based on this topic, in the exam, making it imperative for you to grasp the concepts of Adverb thoroughly and practice a variety of questions. In this blog, we will comprehensively cover all the theoretical concepts and rules of this topic. Additionally, we have included many examples for you to deeply understand each concept and rule. So, let's dive into the world of Adverbs and boost your exam preparation.



[Source: KD Live]

What is Adverb?

An adverb is a word/a set of words that modifies verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. It tells when, where, and how an action is performed or indicates the quality or degree of the action.

Many adverbs end in -ly but some words which end in -ly (such as friendly) are not adverbs. Many words can be both adverbs and adjectives according to their activity in the sentence.

Example :

- Robin is always hungry for success.
- I love her very much.



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Adverb Clauses and **Adverb Phrases** are clauses and phrases that modify the verbs, adjectives or other adverbs in the sentence.

Example:

- He ran toward the bus until he was tired. (Adverb Clause)
- He came carrying his box with two hands. (Adverb Phrase)

Types of Adverb

- Conjunctive Adverbs
- Sentence Adverbs
- Adverbs of Time/Frequency (When?)
- Adverbs of Place/Direction (Where?)
- Adverbs of Degree (How Much?)
- Adverbs of Manner (How?)

Conjunctive Adverb

A **conjunctive adverb** connects phrases or independent clauses. It provides transitions between ideas and shows relationships. Conjunctive adverbs are also called **connectors**.

Example:

- It rained last night. Nonetheless, the final match has not been canceled.
- We are still confused, however, if the umpires will come.

Sentence Adverb

A **sentence adverb** starts the sentence and modifies the whole sentence.

Example:

- Hopefully, we will win the match.
- Apparently, the sky is getting cloudy.



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Adverb of Time / Adverb of Frequency

Adverbs of time/frequency indicate time or frequency of the action in the sentence. They answer the question 'when/ how frequently is the action performed?'.
Always, never, often, eventually, now, frequently, occasionally, once, forever, seldom, before, Sunday, Monday, 10 AM, 12 PM, etc. are common adverbs of time/frequency.

Example:

- I went to school a little late yesterday.
- He always gets a good result.

Adverb of Place / Adverb of Direction

Adverbs of place/direction that indicate place/direction of the action in the sentence. They answer the question 'where is the action performed?'. **Across, over, under, in, out, through, backward, there, around, here, sideways, upstairs, in the park, in the field, in that place, etc.** are some common adverbs of place/direction.

Example:

- I went through the jungle.
- He plays in the field.

Adverb of Degree

Adverbs that express the importance/degree/level of the action in the sentence are called **adverbs of degree**. They answer the question 'how much is the action performed?'. **Completely, nearly, entirely, less, mildly, most, thoroughly, somewhat, excessively, much, etc.** are common adverbs of degree.

Example:

- She completely forgot about her anniversary.
- I read the newspaper thoroughly.

Adverb of Manner



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Adverbs that express the manner/approach/process of the action in the sentence are called **adverbs of manner**. They answer the question 'how is the action performed?'. **Beautifully, equally, thankfully, carefully, handily, quickly, coldly, hotly, resentfully, earnestly, nicely, tirelessly**, etc. are common adverbs of manner. These adverbs usually end in ly.

Example:

- Let's divide the prizes equally.
- Please, handle the camera carefully.

Adverb Word Order

Adverbs are usually placed after the verb:

- He speaks clearly. When there is an object, the adverb is usually placed after the verb + object:
- I put the vase carefully on the table. However, adverbs are never positioned between the verb and the object.
- I read the book quickly. - (Correct)
- I read quickly the book. - (Incorrect)

Sometimes adverbs are placed at the beginning of a clause.

- Quickly, I changed my opinion.

Note: There are exceptions to these rules such as Adverbs of indefinite frequency that go before the verb. See each section we have about adverbs for more details and exceptions.

8 Important Adverb Rules

Rule 1

We use an adverb of time such as always, often, never, ever, sometimes, generally, usually, seldom, hardly, rarely etc before the verb they modify.

Examples:

- He often plays every week.
- They never tried to do better in life.
- She sometimes feels uncomfortable while speaking.



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Rule 2

We place adverb of manners after the Intransitive verb. However, we can place an adverb either before or after the Transitive verb.

Examples:

- He sang beautifully.
- He played confidently the last match.
- He narrated to me the story interestingly.

Rule 3

An adjective qualifies a noun or a pronoun But an adverb modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

Examples:

- He worked hard to achieve success.
- She teaches very seriously.
- He runs more slowly than me.

Rule 4

Uses of 'Else' and 'Other'.

- 'Else' should be followed by 'but'
- 'other' and 'otherwise' are followed by 'than'

Examples:

- 'He has no other choice than leaving the room.
- 'It is nothing else but a foolishness.

Rule 5

While we answer a question we should use the adverb 'yes' and 'no' according to the affirmation and negative answer.

Examples:

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- Yes, I have completed the task.
- No, I have not completed the task.

Rule 6

We should use the adverb 'as' to introduce predicative of the verbs like regard, describe, view, know etc.

- We should not use adverb 'as' to introduce predicative of verbs like name, elect, think, call, make, choose etc.

Example Sentences-

1. The teacher calls me intelligent.
2. He is considered the best actor of Bollywood.
3. He regards me as his brother.
4. Cricket is known as a religion in India.

Rule 7

We should not use negative adverbs like seldom, nowhere, never, nothing, barely, merely, neither, rarely etc with the negative meaning words. Two negative words should be avoided.

Examples:

1. I rarely go to meet anybody in the city.
2. They hardly know anybody in the college.
3. He seldom plays on this ground.

Rule 8

Uses of Very, Much, So, Too and Enough.

- Very- Very modifies present participle used as an adjective, adverb, and adjective in a positive degree.
- Much- Much is used in comparative degrees and past participles.
- So and Too- We should not use 'so' and 'too' without 'that' (adverb clause) and 'to' (infinitive) respectively.
- Enough- 'Enough' is both an adjective and adverb. as an adverb, it is always used after the adjective and as an adjective, it is used before a noun.



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Examples:

- It is a very beautiful place.
- I was very happy after getting the job.
- He is much taller than his brother.
- They completed the mission much faster.
- He is so strong that no one messes with him.
- She is too good to do this job.
- They have enough time to play.
- He is good enough to get admission.

How do you differentiate between a noun, verb, adverb, and adjective?

Nouns are things, adjectives describe things, verbs are what the things do, and adverbs are how they do it.

This article has provided you with valuable insights into the world of Adverbs. We sincerely hope that you have found this blog useful and that it has contributed to enhancing your understanding of this crucial topic. As you continue to gear up for your upcoming exam, we encourage you to share your thoughts, or any doubts you may have in the comments section below.

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