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Adverbs in English! What is an adverb? Learn different types of adverbs and how to use them in English sentences with useful examples, practical exercises and free ESL printable infographic. Adverbs are words that are used in sentences to describe or change the meaning of a Verb or Adjective or even another Adverb. They add a description to the sentence to make it more detailed and interesting. For example: He walked slowly across the square. Here, one can see that the Adverb 'slowly' is describing the Verb 'walk' by telling that the person was walking slowly. 8 Common Types of Adverbs in English | Image Pin Types of Adverbs Adverbs are used in sentences to answer many questions about the Verbs/Adjectives/Adverbs themselves. The different types of Adverbs are as following: Adverb of Time What is an adverb of time? Look at examples below: E.g.: The results announced? 'Announced' is the verb in this sentence. E.g.: She will visit the hospital tomorrow. Here the Verb is 'visit' and the Adverb is tomorrow as the question being asked is: When will she visit the hospital? Other examples of Adverbs of Time are - Once, Never, Tomorrow, Daily, etc. Adverb of Place What is an adverb of place? Look at examples below: E.g.: They will meet you there. The Adverb here is there that is specifying a place for the Verb meet and the question being answered is: Where will they meet you? E.g.: In spring, flowers bloom in spring? Other examples of Adverbs of Place are - Anywhere, Somewhere, Near, Far, etc. Adverb of Manner What is an adverb of manner? Look at examples below: E.g.: He quietly slipped away. The Adverb is slipped away. The Adverb is slipped away. E.g.: She works fast. The Verb here is quietly which is telling: How did he slip away. E.g.: She works fast. The Verb here is quietly slipped away. question being asked is: How does she work? These Adverbs tell about the manner of the action being done, whether it is done happily or haltingly etc. Types of Adverbs - Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverbs of Ma at those examples below: E.g.: He likes to watch TV every day. Here, the Adverb is every day and it is telling about the amount of time spent in doing the Verb is meet. They meet every week. The Adverb here is every week and it is telling the frequency and the Verb is meet. The sentence is telling us: How often do they meet? These Adverbs are used to show the duration or timing of the action that is happening/had happened/will happen. They also tell us how often and how long these actions would be. Other examples of Adverbs of Frequency are - Frequently, Often, Yearly, Briefly, etc. Adverbs of Frequency | Image Pin Adverbs of Degree E.g.: She almost finished the work. The Verb here is finished and the Adverb is almost which is telling us about the amount of the work did she finish? E.g.: They were completely surprised by the windfall. The adverb here is completely which is showing the degree to which 'they' were surprised which is the Verb. The question being asked here is: How much were they surprised? The Adverbs of Degree are used to show to what extent or how much has an action been done or will be done. Other examples of these Adverbs are - Fully, Partially, Altogether, etc. Adverbs of Confirmation and Negation E.g.: They will certainly like this vase. The Adverb here is certainly which is reinforcing the Verb like in answer to the question: Will they like this vase? E.g.: He never leaves his house. The Adverb never is negating the Verb leave. It is answering the question in denial: Does he ever leave his house? These Adverbs either confirm or deny the action of the Verb. They are also used to reinforce the action that is described by the Verb. Other examples of Adverbs of Confirmation are - No, Don't, Can't, etc. Adverbs of Comment These Adverbs are used to make a comment on the entire sentence. They give a look at the speaker's viewpoint or opinion about the sentence. These Adverbs don't just change or describe the Verb; they influence the whole sentence. They found his secret easily. + Unfortunately, has changed the entire tone of the sentence. Earlier, it was a passive tone, now it has a negative or disappointed tone. Other examples of Adverbs of Comment are: Luckily, the dog did not bite the children. Happily, the power returned before the big match. Did he honestly expect me to lie for him? (Adverb adds comment on the anger of the speaker.) And they would win the world cup, obviously. (Can be said in a sarcastic as well as positive manner) Adverbs of Conjunction? These Adverbs are used to connect ideas or clauses, they are used to show consequence or effect or the relation between the two clauses. To use these Adverbs to conjugate two clauses you need to use a semicolon (;) to connect them. Clause 1: He was going for an important interview. Clause 2: He made sure he reached on time. Here, we see how the Adverb 'accordingly, he made sure he reached on time. Here, we see how the Adverb 'accordingly' is joining the two clauses and showing the relation between them with the use of a semicolon (;). Accordingly means- therefore or that is why. A few other Adverbs of Conjunction are: However - Yet, on the other hand, in spite of Consequently - As a result, resulting in Moreover - Beside, in addition Conversely - Opposite of, contrary to Position of Adverbs What is the correct place to put an adverb in English sentences? Adverbs can be used in diverse ways, which means that they are very flexible in sentences; they can be moved around quite a bit without causing any grammatical irregularities. Adverbs are used to begin sentences/clauses I did not care for her tone. However, I let it go. Tomorrow I am leaving for Calcutta. Adverbs are used in the middle of sentences You are always late. I will probably be absent at the party. Adverbs are used to at the end of sentences He wrote the answers correctly. His stammer caused him to speak haltingly. ... Position of Adverbs | Image Pin Adverbs are words that tell us how, when, where, how often, or how much. An adverb (e.g., runs quickly), an adjective (e.g., extremely small), or another adverb (e.g., very closely). Here are some more examples of adverbs: She swims quickly. (Here, the adverb "quickly" modifies the verb "swims.") She is an extremely quick.") She is an extremely quick swimmer. (The adverb "extremely" modifies the adverb "quickly.") Table of Contents Learning about Adverbs Find the Adverb Test Function of the Adverb Test Interactive Examples of Adverbs Moderbs Modify Verbs Adverbs Modify Verbs Adverbs Modify Verbs. In these and Clauses Video Lesson Why Adverbs Are Important Test Time! When first learning about adverbs, we tend to focus on adverbs that modify verbs. In these two examples, the adverbs tell us how the verb is performed: He walked quickly. (In this example, "walked" is the verb, and the adverb "loudly" describes how the verb is done.) Did you notice that both adverbs ended "-ly"? Lots of adverbs that tell us how the verb is performed end with "-ly." It's your go! Select the adverb in the following sentences. Not all adverbs tell us how a verb is done. Here are some more examples of adverbs modifying verbs: How: He ran quickly. When: He ran yesterday. Where: He ran here. How often: He ran daily. How much: He ran fastest. It's your go! Select the function of the adverb is a single word, but an adverb can be made up of more than one word. For example: How: He ran at 10 miles per hour. (The highlighted text is an adverbial phrase.) When: He ran when the police arrived. (The highlighted text is an adverbial phrase) How much: He ran to the shops. (adverbial phrase) Why: He ran to the shops. (adverbial phrase) How much: He ran quicker than me. (adverbial phrase) Read more about adverbial phrases and adverbial clauses. As we will cover later, adverbs can also modify adjectives are blue, and the verbs are green. Note that only the adverbs end "-ly" and modify verbs. That is, of course, true, but adverbs do far more than that description suggests. Here are three key points about adverbs: For example: She sang an insanely sad song extremely well. (In this
example, "insanely" modifies the adjective "sad," "extremely" modifies the adverb "well," and "well" modifies the verb "sang.") For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, very, most, least, more, less, now, far, there For example: fast, never, well, well, well, well, well, well, well, wel the market closes. An adverb that modifies a verb usually tells you how, when, where, why, how often, or how much the action is performed. (NB: The ones that tell us how the action is performed, e.g., "quickly," "slowly," "carefully," "quietly.") Here are some examples of adverbs modifying verbs: Anita placed the vase carefully on the shelf. ("Carefully" modifies "to express how the vase was placed.) Tara walks.) He runs fast. ("Fast" modifies "to express how he runs.) You can set your watch by him. He always leaves at 5 o'clock. ("Always" modifies "to express when he modifies "to arrive" to express when they arrived.) She sometimes helps us. ("Sometimes" modifies "to help" to express when she helps us.) Will you come guietly, or do I have to use earplugs? (Comedian Spike Milligan) ("Quietly" modifies "to come" to express how he wants in the express of t person in the world I should like to know thoroughly. (Playwright Oscar Wilde) ("Thoroughly" modifies "to know" to express how he should like to know himself.) If you examine the word "adverbs," you could be forgiven for thinking adverbs only modify verbs (i.e., "add" to "verbs"), but adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs. Here are some examples of adverbs modifying adjectives: The horridly grotesque gargoyle was undamaged by the debris. ("Horridly" modifies the adjective "ashen.") Badly trained dogs that fail the test will become pets. ("Badly" modifies the adjective "trained.") (Note: The adjective "trained" is an adjective formed from the verb "to train." It is called a participle.) She wore a beautifully modifies the adjective "designed dress. ("Beautifully" modifies the verb "to finish." The adverb "remarkably" modifies "quickly.") We're showing kids a world that is very scantily populated with women and female characters. They should see female characters taking up half the planet, which we do. (Actress Geena Davis) (In this example, the adverb "scantily" modifies the adjective "populated." The adverb "very" modifies "scantily.") It's your go! Select whether the adverb is modifying a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. When an adverb modifies a verb, it can often be categorized as one of the following: TypeExamples Adverb of Manner(how)An adverb of manner tells us how an action occurs. The lion crawled stealthily. Will you come quietly, or do I have to use earplugs? (Comedian Spike Milligan) (NB: Lots of adverbs of manner end "-ly.") Adverb of Time(when or how often) An adverb of time tells us when an action occurs or how often. I tell him daily. What you plant now, you will harvest later. (Author Og Mandino) (NB: Adverbs of time that tell us how often something occurs (e.g., "always," "often," "sometimes") are also known as "adverbs of frequency.") Adverb of Place(where)An adverb of place tells us where an action occurs. I did not put it there. Poetry surrounds us everywhere, but putting it on paper is, alas, not so easy as looking at it. (Artist Vincent Van Gogh) Adverb of Degree(aka Adverb of Comparison)(how much)An adverb of degree tells us to what degree an action occurs. He works smarter. Doubters make me work harder to prove them wrong. (Businessman Derek Jeter) These are the main four categories. We'll discuss the others shortly. Don't forget that adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs. To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect. (Playwright Oscar Wilde) ("Thoroughly" modifies the adjective "modern.") If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing very slowly. (Burlesque entertainer Gypsy Rose Lee) ("Very" modifies the adverbs are common too. Adverbs are commonly phrases (i.e., two or more words) or clauses (i.e., two or more words containing a subject and a verb). Here are some examples of multi-word adverbs of concession, and adverbs of reason.) TypeExamples Adverb of MannerAn adverb of manner often starts with a preposition (e.g., "in," "with") or one of the following: "as," "like," or "the way." (These are called subordinating conjunctions.) Money speaks, but it speaks with a male voice. (Author Andrea Dworkin) (This is called a prepositional phrase.) People who say they sleep like a baby does usually don't have one. (Psychologist Leo J. Burke) Adverb of time often starts with a preposition or one of the following subordinating conjunctions: "after," "as," "as long as," "as soon as," "before," "no sooner than," "since," "until," "when," or "while." A company like Gucci can lose millions in a second. (Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri) After the game has finished, the king and pawn go into the same box. (Italian proverb) Adverb of PlaceAr adverb of place often starts with a preposition or one of the following subordinating conjunctions: "anywhere," "where," or "wherever." Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and, instead of bleeding, he sings. (Ed Gardner) Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go. (Playwright Oscar Wilde) Adverb of Degree (aka Adverb of Comparison)An adverb of degree often starts with one of the following subordinating conjunctions: "than," "as...as," or "the...the." Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm. (Poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge) Be what you are. (Writer Julius Charles Hare) Read more about comparatives of adverbs (like "more cleverly"). Adverbs of Condition An adverb of condition tells us the condition needed before the main idea comes into effect. An adverb of condition often starts with "if" or "unless." If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts. (Theoretical physicist Albert Einstein) Age doesn't matter, unless you're a cheese. (Filmmaker Luis Bunuel) Adverbs of ConcessionAn adverb of concession contrasts with the main idea. An adverb of concession often starts with a subordinating conjunction like "though," "even though," "even though," "even though," "even though," "even though," "even though," "while," "whereas," or "even if." Although golf was originally restricted to wealthy, overweight Protestants, today it's open to anybody who owns hideous clothing. (Comedian Dave Barry) A loud voice cannot compete with a clear voice, even if it's a whisper. (Writer Barry Neil Kaufman) Adverbs of Reason An adverb of reason gives a reason for the main idea. An adverb of reason usually starts with a subordinating conjunction like "as," "because," "given," or "since." I don't have a bank account because I don't know my mother's maiden name. (Comedian Paula Poundstone) Since we cannot change reality, let us change the eyes which see reality, let us change the eyes which see reality. (Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis) Here is a 1-minute video to text? Here is a 7-minute video to text? Here is a list of all our grammar videos. A summary of all the parts of speech Why Adverbs Are Important Here are the six most common writing issues related to adverbs that end "-ly." They consider them unnecessary clutter. If you were to attend a fiction-writing course, you would be taught to craft words that render "-ly" adverbs redundant. On that course, you would undoubtedly be shown this quotation: The road to hell is paved with adverbs. (Author Stephen King) As Stephen King advocates, if you choose the right verb or the right dialogue, you don't need an adverb. Compare these two examples: Extremely annoyed, she stared menacingly at her rival. (Stephen King would hate this.) Infuriated, she glared at her rival. (This is sharper. There are no adverbs.) Here are the three good reasons to kill an adverb ending "-ly": She smiled disappointedly. (By the time your readers reach this sentence, they should know from context that it's a disappointed smile. The trick is to show them, not literally tell them, that she is disappointed. It is far more engaging. Less is more.) Spoon-feeding with an adverb happens most commonly with verbs like said, stated, and shouted (known as verbs of attribution). "Ow, pack that in," Rachel shrieked angrily. (You can remove the adverb if the "how" is implicit from
the dialogue or context.) Sitting dejectedly in its cage, the parrot looked utterly unhappy. (Steven King would hate this.) Looking miserable, the parrot solut. It's is sharper. Your readers will know that parrots don't ordinarily lie on the floor.) Avoiding adverbs is a self-imposed restraint that many writers follow. It's like a game. Upon completing their work, professional writers will often do a text search for "ly " (note the space) to find adverbs and re-justify them before submission. However, if your adverb is part of the story, keep it. Your son is surprisingly handsome. (Issue 2) Delete "very" and "extremely." Professional writers hate adverbs such as "extremely," "really," and "very" (called intensifiers). For them, using an intensifier demonstrates a limited vocabulary. It's a fair point. If you choose the right words, you can avoid intensifiers. Don't write... Very badatrocious extremely hungry ravenous really old ancient incredibly tired exhausted Many writers claim that intensifiers are so useless, you should delete them even if you can't find a more descriptive word. Ireland is great for the spirit but very bad for the body. (Actor Hugh Dancy) (The deletion kills a word but no meaning.) Writer Mark Twain shared this view: Substitute "damn" every time you're inclined to write "very." Your editor will delete it, and the writing will be just as it should be. Press "CTRL H". Put "very" in the Find box. Put nothing in the Replace box. Click Replace All. (Issue 3) When an adverb modifies an adjective, don't join the two with a hyphen. I don't sleep with happily married men. (Actress Britt Ekland) Ironically, he described himself as "a professionally-qualified grammarian". (Don't join the adverb and the adjective with a hyphen.) Remember that not all adverbs end "-ly." The beginning is the most-important part of the work. (translation of Greek philosopher Plato) As covered next, this no-hyphen rule applies only to adverbs that are obviously adverbs (e.g., ones that end "-ly"). (Issue 4) When an ambiguous adverb modifies an adjective, use a hyphen. A few adverbs (e.g., "well" and "fast") look like adjectives. To make it clear your adverb is not an adjective, you can link it to the adjectives. She's a well-known dog. (The hyphen makes it clear that the dog is famous (i.e., well-known) as opposed to well (i.e., healthy) and known (i.e., familiar).) He sold me six fast-growing carp. (The hyphen makes it clear the carp are ones that grow quickly and not growing carp. (The hyphen makes it clear the carp are ones that grow quickly and not growing carp.) He sold me six fast-growing carp. (The hyphen makes it clear the carp are ones that grow quickly and not growing carp.) He sold me six fast-growing carp. (The hyphen makes it clear the carp are ones that grow quickly and not growing carp.) He sold me six fast-growing carp. (The hyphen makes it clear the carp are ones that grow quickly and not growing carp.) He sold me used as an adjective (meaning healthy) in a chain of other adjectives. So, in real life, there's almost never any ambiguity caused by these adjectivey-looking adverbs. Therefore, the following rule will cover 99% of situations: Use a hyphen with "well" when it precedes an adjective. For example: It's a well-known tactic. (This is not really about avoiding ambiguity. It's more about protecting readers from a reading-flow stutter caused by the feasibility of ambiguity.) It's a widely known tactic. (Don't use a hyphen with normal adverbs. They don't cause reading-flow stutters.) Read about hyphens in compound adjectives. (Issue 5) Make it clear what your adverb is modifying. Whenever you use an adverb (a single-word or multi-word one), do a quick check to ensure it's obvious what it refers to. Here are some examples of badly placed adverbs. Singing " or "improved." This is called a squinting modifier.) Peter told us after Christmas that he plans to diet. (Here, after Christmas sits grammatically with "told" but logically with "plans." This is called a misplaced modifier.) I recorded the hedgehog feeding.") Usually a badly placed modifier can be fixed by putting it nearer to the verb it's modifying. (The top two examples can be fixed by moving the shaded text to the end. The third can be fixed by moving "cautiously" either to the left of "recorded" or to the left of "feeding," "only") because these commonly create logic flaws or ambiguity. I only eat candy on Halloween. No lie. (Actor Michael Trevino) (Logically, this means all he does on Halloween is eat candy; therefore, he doesn't work, sleep, or drink on that day. In everyday speech, we all get away with misplacing "only," but we should try to be more precise in our writing.) I eat candy only on Halloween. (This is sharper. As a rule of thumb, the best place for "only" is never to the left of a verb.) The two examples below are correct, but they mean different things. Lee copied nearly all 10 of your answers. (Here, Lee might have copied none to nine.) It's worth spending a second to ensure your limiting modifiers are well positioned. When an adverbial phrase or clause is at the start of a sentence, it is usual to follow it with a comma. In colonial America, lobster was often served to prisoners because it was so cheap and plentiful. One April day in 1930, the BBC reported, "There is no news." If you're called Brad Thor, people expect you to be 6 foot 4 with muscles. (Author Brad Thor) When the adverbial is at the back, the comma can be left out. Each of these could be re-written without comma and with the shaded text at the end. When the adverbial is short (one or two words), your readers won't need helping, so you're safe to omit the comma if you think it looks unwieldy. Yesterday I was a dog. Today I'm a dog. Tomorrow I'll probably still be a dog. Sigh! There's so little hope for advancement. (Cartoonist Charles M. Schulz via Snoopy) Try to render adverbs ending "-ly" redundant with better word choice. Have you used "very" Yes? Delete it. Don't join an adverb to an adjective unless that adverb is "well." Put your adverbs close to what they're modifying and far from what they're not. Was something wrong with this page? Use #gm to find us quicker. Create a QR code for this, or any, page. XYouTubeFacebookmailing listgrammar forum Ah, the adverb train station. If you want to find out about adverbs, there is no better place. An adverb tells you how something happens. Here is a train moving "quickly" on the track. "Slowly" on the track." slowly" is an adverb here as it describes how fast the train is moving. And look, here is another train, this one is moving. And look, here is a train moving "quickly" is an adverb here as it describes how fast the train is moving. And look, here is a train moving "quickly" on the track." train is moving.Oh, here is a group of passengers, waiting "patiently" is the word describing the verb "waiting".Oh dear.Here is the Gorilla Monster, he wants to play with the train. "Patiently" is the word describing the verb "waiting".Oh dear.Here is the Gorilla Monster is playing with the train."Playing" is the verb, because that is what the Gorilla Monster is doing!An adverb describes the nature of a verb!The Gorilla Monster "expertly" launched the train into space! An adverb describes the nature of a verb!The Gorilla Monster "expertly" launched the train into space! An adverb describes the nature of a verb!The Gorilla Monster "expertly" launched the train into space! An adverb describes the nature of a verb!The Gorilla Monster "expertly" launched the train into space! An adverb describes the nature of a verb!The Gorilla Monster "expertly" launched the train into space! An adverb describes the nature of a verb!The Gorilla Monster "expertly" launched the train into space! An adverb describes the nature of a verb descri phrase, with the exception of determiners and adjectives, that directly modify nouns. A good way to understand adverbs is to think about them as the words that provide a description of how, where, when, in what manner and to what extent something is done or happens. Normally, we can spot an adverb by the fact that it often ends in -ly, but there are lots of adverbs that don't end in this way. Moreover, adverbs can be used in many combinations with each other. Traditionally considered a single part of speech, adverbs that don't end in this way. one that ends in -ly is easy. Adverbs normally help paint a fuller picture by describing how something happens, such as When? She always arrives early. How? He drives carefully. Where? They go everywhere together. In what way? She eats slowly. To what extent? It is terribly hot. This function of providing more information about how something is done is called the adverbial function, and it may be accomplished by using adverbial clauses and adverbial phrases as well as by adverbs that stand alone. There are many rules for using adverbs to make sentences more meaningful will be easier for you. Adverbs can always be used to modify verbs. Notice that the second of these two sentences is much more interesting simply because it contains an adverb: The dog ran excitedly. (You can picture a dog running, but you don't really know much more about the scene.) The dog ran excitedly. panting happily, and looking glad to see its owner. You can paint a much more interesting picture in your head when you know how or why the dog is running.) Adverbs are often formed by adding the letters "-ly" to adjectives. This makes it very easy to identify adverbs in sentences. There are many exceptions to this rule; everywhere, nowhere, and upstairs are a few examples. An adverb can be used to modify an adjective and intensify the meaning it conveys. For examples, you'll notice how these useful words modify other words and phrases by providing information about the place, time, manner, certainty, frequency, or other circumstances of Adverbs Adverbs of Manner An adverb of manner will explain how an
action is carried out. Very often adverbs of Adverbs of Manner An adverb of manner will explain how an action is carried out. Very often adverbs of Manner An adverb of manner will explain how an action is carried out. manner are adjectives with -ly added to the end, but this is certainly not always the case. In fact, some adverbs of manner will have the same spelling as the adjective form. Some examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification. She passed the exam easily. They walk quickly to catch the train. The dinner party went badly. John answered the question correctly. Notice how the adjective easy. As mentioned, some adverbs of manner take the same spelling as the adjective and never add an -ly to the end: The boys had worked hard. The car drives Julia dances well. Adverbs of place An adverb of place will be associated with the action of the verb in a sentence. providing context for direction, distance and position: southeast, everywhere, up, left, close by, back, inside, around. These terms don't usually end in -ly. Adverbs of place examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification. Directions New York is located north of Philadelphia. They traveled down the mountainside. First, I looked here, and then I looked there, but I can't find them anywhere. Notice that here and there are often used at the beginning of a sentence to express emphasis or in exclamation. Here comes the sun. There is love in the air. Here you are! Many times, adverbs of place can be used as prepositions as well. The difference is, when the phrase is used as an adverb, it is modifying a verb; when it is used as a preposition, it is always followed by a noun. New York is located north of Philadelphia -> New York is on the map. They travelled in the first compartment. That puppy was walking around by itself-> We put a collar around its neck. Distance There was a deli Jane is moving far away. Carly is sitting close to me. Position The treasure lies underneath the box. The cat is sleeping on the bed. Why are you standing in the middle of the dancefloor? In addition, some adverbs of position will refer to a direction of movement. These often end in -ward or -wards. Oscar travelled onward to Los Angeles. Hannah looked upwards to the heavens. Molly, move forward to the front of the queue, please. Adverbs of Frequency are used to express time or how often something occurs. Adverbs of frequency are used to express time or how often something occurs. usually, always, normally. These adverbs will usually be placed after the main verb or between the auxiliary verb and infinitive. Adverbs of frequency examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification. The adverb is usually placed before the main verb. I can normally make the shot. I will always love Adverbs of definite frequency will usually be placed at the end of the sentence. We get paid hourly. I come here The situation seems to change monthly. The newspaper is bought daily. Adverbs of time, while seemingly similar to adverbs of time, while seemingly similar to adverbs of time. examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification. I will see you Harvey forgot his lunch yesterday and again today. I have to go now. We first met Julie last year. While it's almost always correct to have the adverb of time at the sentence, you can place it at the sentence to put a different emphasis on the time if it is important to the context. Last year was the worst year of my life. Tomorrow our fate will be sealed. Yesterday my troubles seemed so far away. Adverbs of Purpose, sometimes called adverbs of reason, help to describe why something happened. They can come in the form of individual words - so, since, thus, because - but also clauses - so that, in order to. Notice in the examples that the adverbs of purpose are used to connect sentences that wouldn't be late. Because I was late, I jogged a little faster. Since it's your birthday, I will buy you a gift. Positions of Adverbs are not a fixed or set thing. As you have seen, adverbs are not a fixed or set thing. As you have seen, adverbs are not a fixed or set thing. depending on whether the adverb is acting to modify an adjective or another adverb it is. Positional adverb examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification. Adverb position with adjectives and other adverbs the sentences are in bold for easy identification. gave them a really tough match. The adverb really modifies the adjective tough. It was quite windy that night. The adverb quite modifies the adjective tough. It was quite windy that night. The adverb - place, position, time etc. - and there are many exceptions to the rules. However, a basic set of guidelines is shown below: Adverbs of manner or place are usually positioned at the end of the sentence: She laughed timidly. I stroked the cat gently. Janine lived here. There is money everywhere. As mentioned, if the adverb is of definite time it will be placed at the end of the sentence. I did it yesterday. We can discuss it tomorrow. Let's go to Paris next week. However, if it is an indefinite period of time, it will go between the subject and main verb. We often go to Paris in the springtime. Debbie regularly swims here. important it has clear rules. It's already mentioned that some adverbs, will act to modify another, but how do you decide the structure of a sentence with several adverbs. Handily, the order of adverbs, sometimes also called the royal order of adverbs, can help us determine (requency) before school (time) because (purpose. Consider this sentence: I run (verb) quickly (manner) down the road (place) every morning (frequency) before school (time) because (purpose) I might because (purpose) I might miss the bus. While it is good to remember the order of adverbs, there is always flexibility with language, and we have already mentioned that adverbs of time and frequency can be placed at the start of a sentence to change the emphasis. So, bottom line: think of the order of adverbs as more of a guideline than a rule that can't be broken. Examples of Adverbs As you read each of the following adverb examples, note that the adverbs have been italicized for easy identification. Consider how replacing the existing adverbs with different ones would change the meaning of each sentence. She was walking rapidly. The kids love playing together in the sandbox. Please come inside now. His jokes are A. Financially B. Exactly C. Abruptly D. Now Answer: C. The driver stopped the bus abruptly. During always very You don't really care, do you? Adverbs Exercises The following exercises will help you gain greater understanding about how adverbs work. Choose the best answer to complete each sentence. The driver stopped the bus autumn, colorful leaves can be seen falling A. Cheerfully B. Sadly C. Never D. Yesterday Answer: A. My grandmother always smiled cheerfully. After the from trees. A. Everywhere B. Very C. Gently D. Loudly Answer: C. During autumn, colorful leaves can be seen falling gently from trees. My grandmother always smiled A. Blandly B. Everywhere C. Later D. Carefully Answer: B. After the party, confetti was strewn everywhere. It's time to go . A. Before B. Now C. Yesterday D. Lightly Answer: B. It's time to go now. Adverbs List There are many different words that function as adverbs. The following list is broken down into segments which list adverbs by function. After reading, you will be able to think of additional adverbs to add to your own list - after all, there are thousands. Many adverbs in most sentences. Abruptly Boldly Carefully Deliberately Excitedly Financially Horribly Mildly Naughtily Openly Poorly Quickly Sadly Terribly Willingly Yearly Some adverbs tell us where the action happened. These are known as adverbs of frequency. After Always Before Later Now Today Yesterday Many adverbs tell us the extent of the action. Almost Enough So Too Quite Rather Very Some adverbs of manner tell us about the way in which something was done. Briskly Cheerfully Expectantly Randomly Willingly Some groups of words serve the same functions as adverbs. These are known as adverb clauses. Be sure to read the adverb clause section to learn new ways to make your sentences even more interesting. An adverb is a word that provides information about other words in a sentence. It works to clarify and add details about how, what, where, or when something occurs. Adverbs are key in English because they make it easier for people to understand what you're saving. Adverbs are different from adjectives, or even other adverbs. Let's learn more about what kind?" or "how many?"—adverbs focus on describing verbs, other adjectives, or even other adverbs. Let's learn more about the adjectives are different from adjectives are different from adjectives. what adverbs are and how you can use them to create a more detailed and understandable sentence. They can describe a verb, an adjective, or even another adverb is from the late 14th century and comes from the Latin word "adverbium," which literally means "something added to a verb." It serves the same purpose today as it did back then-to enhance or clarify the action in a sentence. Its overall use is even older than its Latin roots; it was translated from the Greek word "epirrhema," which also means "on or upon a verb." So what does an adverb do? It answers one of four questions about the word it's modifying: Where? When? In what way? To what extent? Understanding adverbs are versatile words that add more detail to verbs, adjectives, or even other adverbs. But not all adverbs are created equal. Different types of adverbs add various kinds of information to make actions and descriptions in a sentence clearer. Let's explore how adverbs work within sentences to give readers a better understanding of what you're trying to say. Adverbs of manner tell us how an action is performed or how something happens. They
usually come right after the main verb. Examples: Margot exclaimed loudly, "This is so beautiful!" Harry watched closely. If the verb has a direct object, place the adverb before the verb or at the end of the sentence instead. Never place the adverb between the verb and the direct object. Examples: Margot loudly exclaimed how beautiful the sunset was. Harry watched the game closely. Adverbs of frequency tell us how often something happens, and they come in two categories: indefinite and definite. These adverbs provide us with a general idea of how often something happens but don't give an exact timeframe. Place these adverbs before the main verb in a sentence. Examples: Michael never turns in his homework on time. Anna sometimes tutors her classmates. These adverbs, on the other hand, tell us exactly how often something happens by giving us a specific description of time. They usually go at the end of a sentence. Examples: We travel to South Carolina yearly. I help deliver meals weekly. Adverbs of time and duration give us more information about when an action takes place and how long it lasts. These adverbs tell us when a specific action occurs and are generally placed at the end of a sentence. Example: My son has a project due today; he spent hours working on it yesterday. These adverbs indicate how long an action lasts. Like adverbs of time, they're usually found at the end of a sentence or clause. Example: The alarm system should reset shortly. He worked at the theater temporarily; the job was good for extra seasonal cash. Adverbs of place provide information about where an action takes place. Its placement usually follows the main verb of a sentence. Examples: The papers were scattered everywhere across the floor. Go outside and watch for the package delivery. Adverbs of degree help us understand how much or to what extent something is the case. Examples: She was extremely upset. They were slightly late to the party. He should be ready soon. An adverb of probability helps define how certain or likely something is to happen. Depending on the specific adverb, it can be placed at the beginning of a sentence or right before the main verb. Examples: I definitely will be at the party. Perhaps my brother will show up. It will probably rain if the forecast is correct. A conjugative or linking adverb differs from a coordinating conjunction because it specifically introduces a relationship like comparison, contrast, condition, or clarification between the clauses. Example: Jose didn't make it to the final tuition scholarship interviews; consequently, he was able to apply for another option that provides living expenses. An adverb of purpose (or adverb of reason) offers an explanation of why something is the way it is. Some adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs, connecting two ideas, while others form adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs of purpose function as linking adverbs of purpose function as linking your paycheck will be late. Focusing adverbs emphasize a particular word or part of a sentence, highlighting its importance or specifically to the word they aim to emphasize. Examples: Wyatt enjoys golfing, especially on the weekends. Michael was tardy, but only once. Interrogative adverbs are used specifically to introduce questions. The most common ones include when, why, how, and where. Examples: Where did you buy those pants? She asked what you were doing. Evaluative adverbs are used to express the tone or voice of the author about the information in the clause that follows the action. These adverbs usually come before the clause they're modifying and are often set off by a comma for clarity. Examples: Hopefully, she will show up on time. The bus arrived late, but fortunately, being tardy all the time finally paid off. Relative adverbs introduce dependent or relative clauses. Unlike independent or relative clauses have a subject but don't form a complete thought on their own. The common relative adverbs are where, when, and why. Examples: This is the beach where he proposed to me. That was the trip when she fell overboard. As we've discussed, the position of an adverb in a sentence can vary depending on its type and the word it modifies. Here's a handy guide to help you figure out where to place different kinds of adverbs: Knowing what purpose adverbs serve and where they fit into a sentence is just the first part of understanding their use. You also need to know how to form them from other parts of speech so they make sense in the context and tense in which they are being used. Adverbs are usually formed from adjectives by adding the suffix "-ly." However, there are some exceptions. Take a look at how to change an adjective into an adverb and what to do when the suffix "-ly" doesn't work. For most regular adjectives, you can simply add "-ly" to the end. Adjective into an adverb and what to do when the suffix "-ly" doesn't work. For most regular adjective into an adverb and what to do when the suffix "-ly" doesn't work. adjectives ending in "-le," replace the "-le" with "-ly." Adjective: simple Adverb: simply Some adjective: fast Adverb: well Adjective: fast Adverb: hard by adding "-ly." Some keep the same form as the adjective. Adjective: hard Adverb: hard While many adverbs are created by adding "-ly" to an adjective, there are also adverbs that don't change form at all. Here's what you need to know about these unique cases: In some instances, adjectives that end in "-ly" or have the same spelling as their adjective: lively She enjoyed a lively evening at the dance Adverb: lively Adjective: fast Adverb: fast consists of a preposition (a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence) and its object (usually a noun or pronoun). An adverbial prepositional phrase is a group of words that functions as an adverb in a sentence to form a phrase that modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb. Here's how to use prepositional phrases as adverbs in different contexts: These phrases describe how an action is performed. She sings with enthusiasm. These phrases describe how often an action bappens. He exercises twice a week. These show why an action is taking place. Due to the heavy traffic, we arrived late. Use these phrases to express under what circumstances an action happens. We will have the picnic on the conditions or situations. She types faster than her coworkers. Such phrases indicate why an action is being done. He studies to improve his grades. These phrases show to what extent or degree an action is being performed. The water is too cold for swimming. Use these phrases to highlight a difference or contradiction between two actions. She's friendly with everyone except him. Compound adverbs are multi-word adverbs that offer more specific meanings. These can be formed in various ways to provide a richer, more nuanced description of actions, qualities, or conditions. You can add intensifiers or modifiers to a compound adverb to change its emphasis or meaning. Common intensifiers include very, extremely, and quite. Modifiers can specify the degree or manner of the action. Example: Adverb: quicky She finished the race more quickly than her teammate. You can replace one of the adverbs in a compound adverb with a synonym to create a variation of the original compound adverb phrase can shift its emphasis or meaning. Example: Adverb phrase: quietly in the corner She sat in the corner quietly. Occasionally, you might add prefixes to a compound Adverb: early morning They arrived earlier in the morning. Forming negative adverbs involves adding prefixes to existing adverbs. This changes their meaning to indicate the opposite action or guality or to negate it altogether. Here's how you can form negative adverbs: Use prefixes like "un-" or "dis-" to flip the original meaning of an adverb. Adverb: happily, advantageously Negative Adverb: unhappily, disadvantageously The prefix "non-" also works to create negative adverbs that suggest the absence or lack of the quality described by the original adverb: nonexistent, violently Negative Adverb: nonexistent, nonviolently In some cases, when the original adverb is hyphenated, the negative form is also hyphenated. Adverb: well-dressed Negative Adverb: ill-dressed The prefixes, you can also use negative adverbs like "never"
and "nowhere" to negate actions or indicate absence. Adverb: there Negative Adverb: never there While adverbs are often single words derived from adjectives, you can also use nouns to create adverbial phrases. These phrases usually describe the manner or context in which an action occurs. Here's how to do it: In some cases, you can add the suffix "-ly" to a noun to form an adverb. Noun: year Adverb: yearly (indicating the frequency with which something is done each year) For example: She checks her soil chemistry levels yearly to ensure her plants will grow well. A noun combined with a numerical modifier can create an adverbial phrase that specifies the extent or measure of an action. Noun: miles Adverbial phrase: three miles (indicating the distance traveled) For example: It felt as if they had walked more than three miles. By adding a preposition to a noun, you can form an adverbial phrase that specifies the timing or context of an action. Noun: December Adverbial phrase: before December (indicating that something is done before a specific time of year) For example: Make sure you wrap presents before December! Sometimes, a noun can be part of an adverbial phrase combined with a verb to describe the manner or timing in which an action is performed. Noun: moment Adverbial phrase combined with a verb to describe the manner or timing in which an action is performed. would have been answered if she had only waited a moment. A noun and the infinitive form of a verb can form an adverbial phrase: to bed to sleep For example: Monica went to bed to sleep. The appropriate use of adverbs involves more than just knowing how to form them and where to place them in sentences. It's also crucial to understand how adverbs interact with different parts of speech to convey the intended meaning clearly and effectively. Using adverbs with verbs is the most common way to provide more information about how an action is performed. We have gone over this in detail above, but it doesn't hurt to see how adverbs work specifically with verbs compared to other parts of speech. Adverbs with verbs can enhance your communication by providing additional context and detail. Here are some examples of using adverbs with verbs: Manner adverbs describe how an action is carried out. Frequency adverbs indicate how often an action occurs. They go to the gym regularly. He doesn't eat sweets very often. Time adverbs modify the intensity or degree of an action. He speaks English fluently. These adverbs indicate whether an action is confirmed or denied. He certainly understands. He hardly knows. Comparative adverbs indicate the highest degree. She drives more carefully than he does. He works the hardest in the office. These adverbs connect ideas, showing relationships between clauses or sentences. We can go for a walk; meanwhile, you can prepare dinner. Interrogative adverbs introduce questions about the manner, place, time, or reason for an action. Why did she leave so early? To use adverbs effectively with verbs, make sure you: Avoid redundancy: If the verb already conveys the adverb's meaning, there's no need for the adverb. Example: "Whisper quietly" is redundant since whispering is inherently a quiet action. Choose the adverb that gives new information or adds nuance to the verb. Example: Saying "The fire spread rapidly" is more informative than "The fire spread fast." Placement: Place the adverb close to the verb it modifies to prevent confusion. Example: "She almost drove her kids to school almost." Using adverbs with adjectives is a way to provide more information about the degree or intensity of a guality described by the adjective. Adverbs can help you be more precise and descriptive in your writing. Intensifying adverbs enhance the meaning of an adjective by emphasizing the degree or extent of a quality. The movie was fairly entertaining. Using adverbs with other adverbs can provide additional information about how an action is performed, the degree of an action, or the relationship between multiple actions. These typically form compound adjectives, as described above. These adverbs to give more detail about the manner in which an action is performed. He ran very quickly to catch the bus. Just like adjectives, some adverbs can be used in comparative and superlative forms to show differences in degree or quality between actions. She answered the question most confidently of all. He runs faster than she does. These adverbs indicate how often an action takes place. When paired with another adverb, they give us more detail about the frequency of an action. He exercises quite frequently to stay in shape. These adverbs are used to emphasize just how much or to what extent another adverbs help us express differences in intensity, quality, or degree when we're talking about actions, qualities, or conditions. They work similarly to comparative adverbs, but they modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs instead of nouns or pronouns. To create a comparative adverbs. Use the word "more" before the adverb. Examples: He ran more quickly than his classmates and won the race. He ran faster than his classmates and won the race. For superlative adverbs). Use the word "most" before the adverb. Examples: He ran the most quickly in his class.

He ran the fastest in his class. To help you better use comparative adverbs, take a look at the following examples to help you see how to form each from commonly used adverbs. Adverb: quickly Adverb: quickl most loudly Adverb: carefulles, most carefulles, most carefulles, most carefulles, most carefully Adverb: easier, more easily Adverb: soft Comparative: easier, more easily Adverb: easier, more easier, more easily Adverb: easier, more easily Adverb: easier, more easily Adverb: easier, more superlative degrees, similar to adjectives. Adverb: well Comparative: best Adverb: badly Comparative: best Adverb: hadverbs, along with tips on how to avoid them: Make sure to put adverbs close to the word they're modifying to avoid confusing your reader. Incorrect: She drove almost drove every day. Correct: He can't get no work done hardly. Correct: He can hardly get any work done. Confusing Adjectives for Adverbs Adjectives modify nouns, while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Using an adjective instead of an adverb (or vice versa) can lead to incorrect: She sings beautifully. Using Good and Well Incorrectly "Good" is an adjective, and "well" is an adverb. Use "good" to describe nouns and "well" to describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Incorrect: She plays the piano well. While "very" can add emphasis, using it too frequently can make writing repetitive. Consider using stronger adjectives or adverbs instead. Incorrect: The movie was very very exciting. Correct: The movie was extremely exciting. Using Literally Inaccurately "Literally Inaccurately "Literally flew home. Correct: I was so tired, I literally flew way home. Some adverbs have irregular forms. Be sure to use the correct form of the adverb. Incorrect: He runs more well than his friend. Correct: He runs better than his friend. Correct: He runs better than his friend. Correct: He runs better than his friend. Using Too and Very Interchangeably "Too" implies excess or going beyond a limit, while "very" simply intensifies a quality. Incorrect: The coffee is very hot to drink. Correct: The coffee is too hot to drink. Incorrectly Using Hard and Hardly "Hard" is usually an adjective or adverb that describes the level of effort, while "hardly" means barely or almost not at all. Incorrect: I worked hardly on the project. The way we use adverbs changes depending on whether we're writing literature or technical content. This is because each style of writing has its own goals and targets different audiences. In literature, adverbs do more than just modify verbs. They add color, emotion, and depth to the narrative. Here's how: Authors use adverbs to paint rich and sensory descriptions that immerse readers in the story. Example: The moon shone brightly in the velvet sky, casting an ethereal glow on the tranquil lake. Adverbs can help reveal a character's feelings, emotions, and motivations. Example: She looked at him suspiciously, her eyes narrowing as she considered his words. Adverbs help set the atmosphere, affecting how the reader feels about what's happening. Example: The wind howled ominously through the desolate landscape, foretelling an impending storm. Adverbs can provide nuances to dialog tags, revealing how something is said. Example: She whispered softly, "I'll always be here for you." Adverbs can be used to create a sense of pacing and rhythm in the narrative. Example: He ran frantically through the dark forest, heart pounding, as if his life depended on it. In technical writing, the focus is on clear, precise, and brief communication. Adverbs are used, but sparingly, to enhance clarity and accuracy. Here's how: Technical writing uses adverbs to give exact details that enhance understanding. Example: The experiment was conducted carefully to ensure accurate measurements. Adverbs are used to give clear instructions and convey information efficiently. Example: Enter the data manually into the spreadsheet. Adverbs are used to maintain an objective tone and minimize emotional bias. Example: The software update was installed successfully. algorithm operates efficiently on large datasets Adverbs are versatile words that add more detail to sentences. They usually give extra information about verbs, but they can also describe adjectives or even other adverbs. Adverbs help answer questions like where, when, how, and to what degree something is happening. By doing so, they make the sentence's main action clearer and more understandable. Whether you're reading a story or a technical manual, adverbs play a key role in enriching our understandable. Whether you're reading a story or a technical manual, adverbs play a key role in enriching our understandable. loudly"), an adjective ("very tall"), another adverb ("ended too quickly"), or even a whole sentence ("Fortunately, I had brought an umbrella."). Adverbs are categorized into several types based on their function and what they describe: time, frequency, duration, manner, place, degree, purpose, and conjunctive adverbs. Adverbs often end in -ly, but some (such as fast) look the same as their adjective counterparts. Adverbs can show comparison ("more quickly," "most quickly") and should be placed near the words they modify to avoid ambiguity. Adverbs are versatile words that enhance sentences, but knowing when to use them can be confusing. Here, we'll use rules and examples to explain what adverbs are, how they're used correctly, and when to avoid them. The AI writing assistant for anyone with work to do Table of contents Adverbs are, how they're used correctly, and when to avoid them. other adverbs Adverbs and sentences Adverbs and sentences, providing additional information about how, where, when, to what extent, or how often something happens. Adverbs often end in -ly, but that's not always the case. Tom Longboat did not run badly. The race finished too quickly. Fortunately, Lucy recorded Tom's win. What is an adverb? An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb, providing context about how, when, where, how much, or how often something happens. How? When? Where? How much? How often? badly afterward above almost always carefully already abroad barely annually cheerfully early away completely daily closely eventually back deeply frequently easily later behind entirely hardly fast now below fairly hourly gently recently down just never loudly soon far nearly occasionally peacefully then here quite often quietly today indoor rather once skillfully tomorrow inside slightly rarely slowly tonight nearby too seldom thoroughly yesterday out totally usually well yet there very yearly How adverbs modify parts of speech and sentences. Verb: An adverb describes how, when, where, or to what extent the action happens. (Example: She runs quickly.) Adjective: An adverb adds intensity or degree to an adjective. (Example: She sings very beautifully.) Sentence: An adverb used with a sentence conveys the speaker's attitude or provides a general perspective on the statement. (Example: Fortunately, we arrived on time.) Types of adverbs a general perspective on the statement. (Example: Fortunately, we arrived on time.) Types of adverbs a general perspective on the statement. something happens now, soon, rarely, yesterday Adverbs of frequency Describe how often an action lasts briefly, temporarily, forever, permanently, indefinitely Adverbs of manner Describe how an action is performed quickly, carefully, happily gently, loudly, easily Adverbs of place Describe where an action happens here, there, everywhere, nowhere, outside, upstairs Adverbs of degree Describe the intensity, extent, or level of an action happens or the reason behind it therefore, thus, so, because, consequently, hence Conjunctive adverbs and verbs Adverbs most often modify verbs. They do this by characterizing the action of the verb. They usually do this by specifying something about the manner, time, place, frequency, or degree of the action. Manner: These adverbs describe how a verb's action is performed. (Example: We arrived at the theater and got in line early.) Place: These adverbs describe where a verb's action takes place. (Example: The others hiked to the peak while she waited below.) Frequency: These adverbs describe the intensity, extent, or level of a verb's action. (Example: The company is owned entirely by its workers.) Adverbs and adjectives Adverbs can also modify adjectives. They appear before the adjectives they modify in a sentence, and they add detail to how the adjectives describe nouns. That detail generally has to do with how the guality described by an adjective is true, the degree to which it is true, or how often it is true. Manner: When modifying an adjective, these adverbs give more detail about the adjective describes something. (Example: The pilot's voice sounded reassuringly quiet.) Degree: These adverbs communicate the intensity with which the adjective describes its noun or to what extent it does so, either on its own or in comparison to something. else. (Example: The lake looks quite calm this morning.) Frequency: These adverbs describe how often an adjective applies to the noun it modifies. (Example: That cat is always happy to be having its dinner.) Flat adverbs flat adverbs flat adverbs that have the same form as their adjective counterparts. Common flat adverbs include safe, fast, hard, slow, easy, and bright: We'll have to drive fast to get there in time. Learning languages has always come easy to Kit. Some flat adverbs have alternate forms that do take on -ly-safe/safely, slow/slowly, and bright/brightly are three pairs of adverbs in which both forms are acceptable as adverbs: The moon is shining bright [or brightly] tonight. Adverbs and other adverbs Adverbs sometimes modify other adverbs. Like an adverb modifying an adjective, a second adverb adds detail to the information the original adverb that can modify other adverbs that can be adverbed to the can be adv principal adverb applies to the word it modifies. In the following sentence, the adverb of degree (almost) modifies the adverb of frequency (always), which modifies the adverb of frequency (always), which modifies the adverb of frequency (always), which modifies the adverb of degree (almost) modifies the adverb of frequency (always), which modifies the adverb of t for guests. Multiple adverbs together Because adverbs, it is grammatically possible to string together multiple adverbs, each modifying the next. This can be useful for expressing unusual intensity, especially in informal or emotional contexts, or for a specific tonal emphasis. Here are a couple of examples: I am so deeply, eternally indebted to everyone who has supported me. Xavier felt their teammates were not quite sufficiently prepared after all. However, such devices are best used thoughtfully and sparingly. They can make sentences too equivocal, indirect, weak, or clunky. Here's an example of such a sentence: Huan sings rather enormously too loudly. Adverbs and sentences Some adverbs, called sentence adverbs, modify entire sentences. Common ones include generally, fortunately, interestingly, naturally, hopefully, and accordingly. The meaning of a sentence adverb applies to the writer or speaker's feeling about all the information contained in the sentence, rather than modifying a specific sentence element. Here are a couple of examples: Fortunately, we got there in time. Surprisingly, no one at the auction seemed interested in bidding on the antique spoon collection. Sentence expresses, doubt about it, or anticipation of objections to it, as in the following examples: Clearly, we have a lot more research to do on this subject. Arguably, this was the best course of action available. Admittedly, we haven't yet located any primary sources. Adverbs and degrees of comparison. In fact, the adverbs that can do this are very closely related to adjectives—they are almost all adverbs that have corresponding adjectives, including the many that are formed by adding -ly to an adjective. The absolute (or positive) degree of an adverb is the adverb in its most basic form. An absolute adverb communicates a specific way in which an action was performed directly, without reference to anything else. They asked me to deliver a hastily written note. The comparative degree of adverbs is for comparing the way two people, groups, or other entities did something in terms of the specific quality expressed by an adverb. To form the comparative degree of an adverb that ends in -ly, add the word more: He smiled more warmly than the others. This note is even more hastily written than the last one I delivered. The superlative degree of adverbs is for comparing the way three or more people, groups, or other entities did something in terms of the specific quality expressed by an adverb. To make the superlative form of an adverb that ends in -ly, add the word most: He smiled most warmly of them all. This is the most hastily written note I have ever received. Flat adverbs and degrees of comparative and superlative forms of flat adverbs match the corresponding adjective's comparative and superlative forms: Could you bring that display closer so we can see it better? Of the land animals, the cheetah runs fastest. Placement of adverbs in relation to the words they modify so that they most clearly communicate your meaning. With singleword verbs The most important thing to keep in mind about adverbs modifying verbs is that they should appear as near to the verb they modify: Char looked excitedly at the pastries in the display case. However, some adverbs are more natural between the subject and intransitive verb: We always go cycling on summer Fridays. With transitive verbs, the clearest adverb placement is usually after the object of the verb. It should never separate a transitive verb from its object: They decorated the hall elaborately for the dance party. With verb phrases When an adverb is modifying a verb phrase, the most natural place for it is usually the middle of the phrase. We are quickly approaching the deadline. Huan has always loved singing. With adjectives and other adverbs appear directly before the modified word: She learned her way around Berlin very quickly. With the adverbs appear directly before the modified word: adverb only, which is one of the most often misplaced modifiers. Consider the difference between these two sentences: Phillip fed only the cat. The first sentence says that all Phillip fed only the cat. The second sentence says that all Phillip fed only the cat. The second sentence says that all Phillip fed only the cat. The first sentence says that all Phillip fed the cat. The second sentence says that all Phillip fed only the cat. The first sentence says that all Phillip fed the cat. avoid Although many people are taught to avoid adverbs altogether in their writing, adverbs are an essential part of the language; the trick is to know when to use them well. Superfluous adverbs When your verb or adjective doesn't seem powerful or precise enough without appending an adverb, you can often use a stronger verb or adjective without the adverb. Compare these two sentences: The board forcefully took control away from the founder. The second, in which the verb wrested does all the work that the adverbs forcefully and away do in the first, packs more of a punch. Intensifier overuse Degree adverbs that communicate intensity, such as very, really, extremely, and quite, are easy to overuse and quickly begin to sound empty, insincere, or hyperbolic. Sentence adverbs clearly, obviously, certainly, and inarguably, especially in persuasive or academic writing. Because they are used so often and what follows them is not always actually beyond questioning, they can weaken a writer's claim instead of underscoring it. Keep in mind that the word hopefully as a sentence adverb has been considered correct for decades, but it used to be so controversial that some readers may find it distracting. Adverbs with linking verbs, such as feel, smell, sound, seem, and appear, precede adjectives (modifying the linking verb's subject), not adverbs. Here's a common example of the type of confusion that happens with linking verbs: Paz feels badly about what happened