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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 were announced yesterday. Here the Adverb is yesterday which is answering the question: When were 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 everywhere. Here the Verb is bloom and the Adverb is everywhere, answering the question: Where do the 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 here is quietly which is telling the way or manner in which the action was carried out and the Verb is slipped which is telling: How did he slip away. E.g.: She works fast. The Verb here is work and the Adverb is fast and the question being asked is: How does she work? These types of adverbs tell about the manner in which the action was done, whether it does so happily or unhappily etc. Other examples of Adverbs of Manner are - Honestly, Joyfully, Cunningly, etc. Types of Adverb - Adverbs of Manner: | Image Pin Adverb of Frequency What are adverbs of frequency? It asks a look 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 which is watch. The question in this sentence is: How often does he watch TV? E.g.: They meet 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 finished. The question being asked is: How much 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 - Definitely, Absolutely, Surely, etc. Examples for Adverbs of Denial or Negation 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 her secret easily. + Unfortunately, they found his secret easily. Here, we see that adding the Adverb, unfortunately, has changed the entire tone of the sentence. Earlier, it was a passive tone, but 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 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 What are 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. He was going for an important interview; 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 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 can modify a verb (e.g., runs quickly), an adjective (e.g., extremely small), or another adverb (e.g., very closely). Here are some examples of adverbs: She swims quickly. (Here, the adverb "quickly" modifies the verb "swims.") She is an extremely quick swimmer. (The adverb "extremely" modifies the adjective "quickly.") She swims extremely quickly. (The adverb "extremely" modifies the adverb "quickly.") Table of Contents Learning about Adverbs Find the Adverb Test the Adverb Function of the Adverb Test Interactive Examples of Adverbs More about Adverbs Adverbs Modify Verbs Adverbs Modify Adjectives Adverbs Modify Adverbs Types of Adverb Adverbial Phrases and Clauses Video Lesson Why Adverbs Are Important Test Quick! 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 "quickly" describes how the verb was done.) She talks loudly. (Here, "talks" 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. Adverbs can also tell us when, where, how often, and how much 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 in the following sentences. In other words, what is the adverb telling us? In the examples above, every 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 clause.) Where: He ran to the shops. (adverbial phrase) Why: He ran to fetch some water. (This is an adverbial phrase. There are no single-word adverbs that tell us why.) How often: He ran every day. (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 and even other adverbs. Here are some interactive examples to help explain the difference between single-word adverbs, adverbial phrases, and adverbial clauses. (In these examples, the subjects are blue, and the adjectives are green. Note that only the adverbial clause is underlined.) Adverbs modify verbs, but adverbs don't modify adjectives. Here are some examples of adverbs modifying adjectives: Peter Jackson finished his assignment remarkably quickly. (The adverb "quickly" 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(when)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. (Bursque entertainer Gypsy Rose Lee) ("Very" modifies the adverb "slowly.") In all examples above, the adverbs are single words, but multi-word adverbs are common too. Adverbs are common 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. (This list also includes adverbs of condition, adverbs of concession, and adverbs of reason.) 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He ran the fastest in his class. To help one better understand comparative and superlative adverbs, take a look at the following examples to help you see how to form them from commonly used adverbs. Adverbs: quick Superlative: quickest, most quickly Comparative: quicker, most quickly Superlative: loudest, most loudly Adverb: careful Comparative: carefuler, more carefully Superlative: carefulest, most carefully Adverb: easy Comparative: easier, more easily Superlative: easiest, most easily Adverb: soft Comparative: softer, more softly Superlative: softest, most softly Remark: that some adverbs have irregular forms for the comparative and superlative degrees, similar to adjectives. Adverb: well Comparative: better Superlative: best Adverb: badly Comparative: worse Superlative: worst Adverb: far Comparative: farther Superlative: farthest Adverbs can be a bit tricky, but they're key to speaking and writing English well. Here are some common mistakes people make with adverbs, 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 almost drove every day. Correct: She drove almost every day. Avoid using two negatives in a sentence as it can make your message unclear. Incorrect: 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 sentences. Incorrect: She sings beautiful. Correct: 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 good. Correct: 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" should only be used to describe something that actually happened, not as a way to emphasize a point. Incorrect: I was so tired, I literally flew home. Correct: I was so tired, I practically dragged myself home. Correct: I was literally dragging my feet on the 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: 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 that describes the level of effort, while "hardly" means barely or almost not at all. Incorrect: I worked hardly on the project. Correct: I worked hard 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 add creative flair, while in technical writing, they help with clear and precise communication. 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 avoid ambiguity by clarifying the intended meaning of actions and processes. Example: The procedure should be followed exactly to ensure safety. 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. Adverbs are used judiciously to keep sentences concise and avoid unnecessary elaboration. Example: The 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 understanding of what's being said. They can add emotional depth in literature and bring precision and clarity in technical writing. An adverb is a word that modifies or describes a verb ("he sings loudly"), an adjective ("very tall"), another adverb ("ended too quickly"), or even a whole sentence ("Fortunately, I had brought an umbrella."). Adverbs provide additional context, such as how, when, where, to what extent, or how often something happens. 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 Adverb definition Types of adverbs Adverbs and verbs Adverbs and adjectives Adverbs and other adverbs Adverbs and sentences Adverbs and degrees of comparison Placement of adverbs Common adverb mistakes to avoid Adverb FAQs Adverb definition Adverbs are words that modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, or 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 afterword above almost always carefully already 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 Here's how adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, 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: The lake is incredibly beautiful.) Adverb: When an adverb modifies another adverb, it clarifies or intensifies it. (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 Adverbs can be categorized into several types based on their function. Here are the different types of adverbs: Types of Adverbs Type Function Examples Adverbs of time Describe when, how long, or how often something happens now, soon, rarely, yesterday Adverbs of frequency Describe how often an action occurs always, usually, often, sometimes, rarely, never Adverbs of duration Describe how long 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, adjective, or another adverb very, too, quite, almost, extremely, completely Adverbs of purpose Explain why an action happens or the reason behind it therefore, thus, so, because, consequently, hence Conjunctive adverbs Connect the ideas in different independent clauses or sentences alternatively, moreover, as a result, on the other hand 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: My cat waits impatiently for his food.) Time: These adverbs describe when or how long a verb's action is done. (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 how often a verb's action occurs. (Example: Farid prefers to be paid monthly rather than weekly.) Degree: 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 quality 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 degree or way in which 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 are 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 communicates about the word it is modifying. The adverbs that can modify other adverbs generally convey degree--answering the question of to what extent or how intensely the 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 adjective right. The weather report is almost always right. Here's an example in which a degree adverb (quite) modifies a manner adverb (elaborately). Farran cooks quite elaborately for guests. Multiple adverbs together Because adverbs can modify other 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 adverbs often convey certain rhetorical things like certainty about what the rest of the 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 Like adjectives, many adverbs can show 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 three degrees of comparison are the absolute, the comparative, and the superlative. The absolute 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 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 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 comparison The 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 There are some guidelines and conventions to be aware of when it comes to where you put adverbs in relation to the words they modify so that they most clearly communicate your meaning. With single-word verbs The most important thing to keep in mind about adverbs modifying verbs is that they should appear as near to the verb they qualify as possible. They most often come before intransitive verbs 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 Adverbs modifying adjectives or other adverbs appear directly before the modified word: She learned her way around Berlin very quickly. With the adverb only Be especially careful about the placement of the adverb only, which is one of the most often misplaced modifiers. Consider the difference between these two sentences: Phillip only fed the cat. Phillip fed only the cat. The first sentence says that all Phillip did was feed the cat. The second sentence says that Phillip fed the cat, but he didn't feed anything or anyone else. Common adverb mistakes to 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 and then 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 board wrested control 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 adverb pitfalls Be careful not to overuse or misuse the 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 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.