

# Lesson No. 05

## Adverbs

### KEY POINTS

#### Adverbs

An **adverb** can be a word (easily) or a phrase (last night) that describes or modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb, and sometimes a sentence, but not a noun or a pronoun. We can identify a lot of adverbs by their endings. They end in **-ly** but not all, as some words that end in **-ly** are adjectives.

#### Examples:

- We crawled **slowly** around on our hands and knees looking for the needle. (Adverb **slowly** modifies verb **crawl**)
- I dreamed about you last night. (Adverb **last night** modifies verb **dreamed**)
- The monster was **incredibly** ugly. (Adverb **incredibly** modifies adjective **ugly**)
- The heart patient collapsed quite **suddenly**. (Adverb **suddenly** modifies adverb **quite**)
- Fortunately, we were in time to buy the last tickets. (Adverb **fortunately** modifies a sentence **we were in time to buy the last tickets**)

Unlike adjectives, adverbs do not modify nouns.

#### Examples:

- **Incorrect:** That woman has a **beautifully** daughter. (Adverb)  
**Correct:** That woman has a **beautiful** daughter. (Adjective)
- **Incorrect:** He found the exam quite **hardly**. (Adverb)  
**Correct:** He found the exam quite **hard**. (Adjective)
- **Incorrect:** We heard a **loudly** explosion and then saw **thickly** smoke. (Adverb)  
**Correct:** We heard a **loud** explosion and then we saw **thick** smoke. (Adjective)

#### The adverb is an intensifier

Besides being a modifier, the adverb performs another function. As an intensifier, it makes the adjective that they modify stronger by giving it emphasis.

#### Examples:

- The weather is **exceptionally** cold at this time of the year.
- He is **downright** rude to his parents.
- The treatment is **extremely** dangerous for an old person like her mother.
- The witch appeared **hideously** ugly in his dream.
- The substance was found to be **highly** addictive.

#### Adverb Phrase

The adverb does not come in just one word. It can be a group of two or more words acting as an adverb phrase (or adverbial phrase). The adverb phrase does the work of an adverb in a sentence in modifying a verb, an adjective or another adverb. The adverb phrases are in bold.

#### Examples:

- He has been sitting **at the corner** for hours.
- His father owns a house **by the sea**.
- I decided to join them **to jog in the park**.
- We strolled **along the beach** after sunset.
- A couple of birds were perching **on the gate**.

#### Types of Adverbs

There are different kinds of adverbs expressing different meaning. The following are some of the common ones.

#### Adverb of time

An adverb of time tells us when something is done or happens. We use it at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. We use it as a form of emphasis when we place it at the beginning. Adverbs of time include **afterwards, already, always, immediately, last month, now, soon, then, and yesterday.**

Examples:

- He collapsed and died **yesterday**.
- His factory was burned down **a few months ago**.
- **Last week**, we were stuck in the lift for an hour.

### Adverb of place

An adverb of place tells us where something is done or happens. We use it after the verb, direct object or at the end of a sentence. Adverbs of place include words such as **above, below, here, outside, over there, there, under, upstairs.**

Examples:

- We can stop **here** for lunch.
- The schoolboy was knocked **over** by a school bus.
- They rushed for their lives when fire broke out in the floor **below**.

### Adverb of manner

An adverb of manner tells us how something is done or happens. Most adverbs of manner end in **-ly** such as **badly, happily, sadly, slowly, quickly**, and others that include **well, hard, fast**.

Examples:

- The brothers were **badly** injured in the fight.
- They had to act **fast** to save the others floating in the water.
- At the advanced age of 88, she still sang very **well**.

### Adverb of degree

An adverb of degree tells us the level or extent that something is done or happens. Words of adverb of degree are **almost, much, nearly, quite, really, so, too, very**, etc.

Examples:

- It was **too** dark for us to find our way out of the cave. (Before adjective)
- The referee had to stop the match when it began to rain **really** heavily. (Before adverb)
- Her daughter is **quite** fat for her age.
- The accident victim **nearly** died from his injuries.
- After all these years, she is still feeling **very** sad about her father's death.

### Adverb of frequency

An adverb of frequency tells us how often something is done or happens. Words used as adverbs of frequency include **again, almost, always, ever, frequently, generally, hardly ever, nearly, rarely, seldom, sometimes, twice, usually, and weekly.**

Examples:

- They were **almost** fifty when they got married.
- He **hardly ever** says something nice to his wife.
- While overseas, he **frequently** phoned home.
- She is not **nearly** always right although she thinks she is **always** right.
- He complained that she **never** smiled back.
- We only write to each other very **occasionally**.
- Peter **seldom** reads the Bible.
- **Sometimes** he stays late in the office to complete his work.
- Our cat was bitten **twice** by the same dog.
- The man **usually** proposes marriage.

### Comparison of Adverbs

There are three degrees of comparison in adverbs – the **Positive**, the **Comparative**, and the **Superlative**. The adverbs form their comparatives and superlatives using **-er** and **-est**, and **more** and **most**. Adverbs that end in **-ly** use the words **more** and **most** to form their comparatives and superlatives.

The one-syllable adverbs use **-er** in the comparative form, and **--est** in the superlative form.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Early	Earlier	Earliest
Fast	Faster	Fastest
Hard	Harder	Hardest
High	Higher	Highest
Late	Later	Latest
Loud	Louder	Loudest
Near	Nearer	Nearest
Soon	Sooner	Soonest

Adverbs which end in **-ly** or have three or more syllables each form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **most**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Angrily	more angrily	most angrily
Brightly	more brightly	most brightly
Dimly	more dimly	most dimly
Freely	more freely	most freely
Gladly	more gladly	most gladly
Heavily	more heavily	most heavily
Loudly	more loudly	most loudly
Quietly	more quietly	most quietly
Sweetly	more sweetly	most sweetly
Terribly	more terribly	most terribly

The comparative form is used to compare two things.

**Examples:**

- We must not reach there **later** than 7 o'clock.
- You speak **more loudly** than a loudspeaker.
- Sirius shines **more brightly** than all the other stars.

The superlative form is used to compare three or more things.

**Examples:**

- He arrived **the earliest**, so he had to wait for the others.
- Why do you have to speak **the most loudly** of all at the meeting?
- Of all the girls, your sister sang **the most sweetly**

Some adverbs form the comparative and the superlative irregularly.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Badly	worse (than)	worst (the)
Far	farther	Farthest
Far	further	Furthest
Little	less	Least
much/many	more	Most
Well	better	Best

**Examples:**

- Of the two teddy bears, which do you like **better**?
- This has to be the **farthest** I have ever walked in my life.

## Forming Adverbs

There are three forms of adverbs: adverb formed by adding -ly to an adjective, adverb that shares an identical word with an adjective, and adverb not derived from an adjective or any other word.

### Most adverbs are formed by adding -ly to an adjective:

#### Examples:

- He had a **sudden** heart attack while jogging. (Adjective)
- He **suddenly** had a heart attack while jogging. (Adverb)
- She had a **quick** walk to get there on time. (Adjective)
- She walked **quickly** to get there on time. (Adverb)
- Converting a number of adjectives to adverbs by adding -ly entails removing a letter as shown in the following:

#### Examples:

- by adding -ly or -ally to the end of an adjective (quick -quickly, heroic -heroically),
- by adding -ly after removing the last -e from an adjective (comfortable-comfortably, possible-possibly),
- by dropping the last y from an adjective and replacing it with -ily (easy-easily, happy-happily).

### Adverbs that share identical words with an adjective:

Some examples of adverbs that have the same form as adjectives and have similar meanings are: **far, fast, hard, long, right, straight, tight, wrong.**

#### Examples:

- I got a **cheap** pair of shoes in the sale. (Adjective)
- I got a pair of shoes **cheap** in the sale. (Adverb)
- The workers find the new machine **easy** to operate. (Adjective)
- The workers operate the new machine **easily**. (Adverb)
- Where we live isn't **far** from here. (Adjective)
- We don't live **far** away from here. (Adverb)
- She found the work quite **hard**. (Adjective)
- She worked quite **hard**. (Adverb)
- The two brothers live on **opposite** sides of the city. (Adjective)
- She has a brother who lives **opposite** to her. (Adverb)
- If we exercise regularly, we may live a **longer** life. (Adjective)
- If we exercise regularly, we may live **longer**. (Adverb)
- You have written the **wrong** name. (Adjective)
- You have written the name **wrong**. (Adverb)

There are adverbs not derived from an adjective or any other word. Adverbs such as **as, even, how, never, next, now, rather, so, soon, still, then, and too.**

#### Examples:

- He doesn't **even** know where the Pacific Ocean is.
- He said he had **never** been to a circus.
- She has got **rather** a lot of money to spend at this time of the month.
- She has eaten two big pizzas and is **still** hungry.

There are many adverbs that do not end in -ly. Adverbs (in bold) coming after verbs do not end in -ly

#### Examples:

- The climbers strove **hard** to reach the top.
- The boy jumped **over** that fence.
- The train will arrive **soon**.
- You can put this book **up** on the top shelf.
- Your mother called **yesterday**.

Adverbs are also formed from other parts of speech such as noun (accident), verb (hurry), adjective (bad) and from present participle (frightening).

### Examples:

- She deleted my file by **accident**. (Noun)
- She **accidentally** deleted my file. (Adverb)
- Nick **hurried** to answer the telephone. (Verb)
- Nick moved **hurriedly** to answer the telephone. (Adverb)
- Excessive smoking is **bad** for him. (Adjective)
- His health is **badly** damaged by excessive smoking. (Adverb)
- He's **frightening** us with the speed he's driving. (Present participle)
- **Frighteningly**, there is little we could do with the speed he's driving. (Adverb)

### Position of Adverbs

Adverbs occupy different positions in a sentence: at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end.

**At the beginning of a sentence before the subject**

### Examples:

- **Foolishly**, we decided to try it out.
- **Fortunately** we got home before it started to rain.
- **Hopefully**, it will not rain.
- **Luckily**, I had enough money to buy it.
- **Naturally**, we hope for our team to win.
- **Silently**, he crept up the stairs.
- **Sometimes**, she gives me a lift to work. (The comma may or may not be used.)
- **Suddenly**, all the lights went out.

### At the end of a sentence

### Examples:

- We had to eat **quickly**.
- He admitted punching and kicking the man **repeatedly**.
- Our old neighbour fell and hurt her leg **badly**.
- Hey, you have not pronounced my name **correctly**.

The following examples show adverbs used in the middle of a sentence. They come before or after the main verb. Where there is an auxiliary verb, the adverb is found between the auxiliary verb and the main verb, or after the auxiliary verb and before an adjective that the adverb modifies.

### The adverb comes before the verb

### Examples:

- Your fat uncle **accidentally knocked** my vase of fresh flowers over.
- A customer **bravely tackled** a thief at a store.
- She **carefully folded** the letter and gave it to him.
- Knowing he was late, he **nervously glanced** at his watch.
- Their parents **often go** to the cinema.
- Accidents **regularly occur** on this crowded street.
- She **reluctantly agreed** to his proposals.

### The adverb comes after the verb

### Examples:

- The sisters dressed **beautifully** for the occasion.
- She **spoke briefly** to the reporters.
- The tourist **looked carefully** at the antique before she bought it.
- I watched a helicopter **hover noisily** overhead.
- He **laughed loudly** at his own joke.
- She **smiled sweetly** at him.

- We walked **quickly** to get there on time.

The adverb is used between the auxiliary verb 'be' and the main verb

Examples:

- The rain **has already stopped** when we arrived.
- We **do occasionally go** bird-watching.
- They **have openly accused** him of stealing.
- He **was successfully operated on** after the accident.
- Their parents **were tragically killed** in a road accident.

The adverb is placed between the auxiliary verb used as main verb and an adjective that the adverb modifies.

Examples:

- She **is always quick** to point out other people's faults.
- As usual, they **are very late**.
- He **was happily married** with three young children.
- The boys **were incredibly lucky** to be alive after what happened.
- Their team **was soundly beaten**.

## ETEA PAST PAPERS (Lesson No. 5 Adverbs)

### ETEA MEDICAL PAPER YEAR 2013

Q 14) Select the correct sentence:

- (a) My feet seemed hardly to touch the earth.
- (b) My feet hardly seemed to touch the earth.
- (c) Hardly my feet seemed to touch the earth.
- (d) My feet seemed to touch the earth hardly.

ANSWER: (b)

Q 15) Select the correct sentence:

- (a) Certainly she is the best person for the job.
- (b) She is the best person for the job certainly.
- (c) She certainly the best person for the job.
- (d) The best person certainly she is for the job.

ANSWER: (a)