

## *Adverbs*

### *Adverbs of Frequency*

An adverb of frequency answers the question *How often?* Adverbs of frequency include: *always, never, usually, frequently, occasionally, rarely, seldom, sometimes,* etc.

Example: Bob **always** forgets to check his email before class begins. (**Before** answers the question: How often does Bob forget to check his email?)

### *Interrogative Adverbs*

An interrogative adverb introduces a question. Interrogative adverbs are usually placed at the beginning of the sentence. Interrogative adverbs include: *how, when, why, and where.*

Example: **When** will John's plane arrive from Atlanta?

### *Conjunctive Adverbs*

Conjunctive adverbs serve as transitional words, joining and relating independent clauses. Conjunctive adverbs include: *accordingly, also, alternatively, certainly, consequently, finally, nevertheless, moreover, previously, therefore,* etc. For a list of more conjunctive adverbs, refer to the Writing Center's handout *Common Conjunctions*.

Example: We plan to leave early in the morning; **therefore**, we will go to bed early.

### **Forming Adverbs**

#### *Adding -ly to the end*

Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to an adjective.

Example: clear/clearly hard/hardly

#### *Irregular Adverbs*

Some adverbs do not use the *-ly* ending. These adverbs do not have a particular form. Following is a list of some of the most common irregular adverbs: *already, also, always, here, never, not, now, often, quite, seldom, soon, still, then, there, too, very well.*

### **Adverb Placement**

Adverbs are flexible in their placement; therefore, they can be placed just about anywhere within the sentence.

At the beginning of a sentence or a clause

Example: **Clearly**, John has a problem arriving to work on time.

At the end of a sentence or a clause

Example: Sarah and John attend the opera **frequently**.

After the verb

Example: Bob and John have **always** participated in the soccer tournament.

Between the subject and the verb

Example: Sarah **rarely** forgets to call home when she is out late.

- There is another classification of adverbs considering meaning such as:

1. Qualitative adverbs

a. **Adverbs of manner:** desperately, fast, perfectly

2. **Quantitative adverbs**

a. **Adverbs of degree:** extremely, hardly, too, very

b. **Adverbs of measure:** long

3. **Circumstantial Adverbs** – Time Adverbs

a. **Adverbs of definite time:** yesterday, then, now, in the morning

b. **Adverbs of indefinite time:** soon, always, often, sometimes, ever Subgroups of

Adverbs of time can answer the questions like:

*Adverbs of definite time* answering the question When? – Yesterday, last week, early, late.