

Parts of Speech: Adverbs

Description of the Lecture This lecture is about adverbs as parts of speech. It provides the conceptual as well as technical frameworks of adverbs to identify their classification and uses in English sentence. The lecture emphasis is put on the definitions, kinds, examples, comparison and exercises. **Objectives of the Lecture** When students have successfully completed this unit, they should be able, among other things, to;

1. Define the part of speech known as adverb.
2. List the main kinds of adverbs. 3. Recognize how adverbs function in sentence. 4. Show the relationship between adverbs and verbs, adjectives and adverbs in a sentence. 5. Compare adverbs with adjectives. 6. Compose correct, meaningful and functional sentences with adverbs.

Introduction

Nouns and verbs make straightforward statements about what things are and what they do. However, the world is not black and white – there are infinite details that need to be expressed. Modifiers give additional information about nouns, pronouns, verbs, and themselves to make those things more definite. There are two types of modifiers: adjectives and adverbs. Students have just learned that adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. Another type of describing word or modifier is the adverb.

1. Definition

Adverb is a word or group of words used commonly to modify "describe, qualify, restrict or limit" verbs, but it can also modify an adjectives, another adverb or a phrase in a sentence. They are used to qualify any content word except a noun or pronoun in a sentence. Adverbs add to the meaning of a verb "or an adjective or another adverb" often by telling or answering the questions of: when, how, where, and to what extent a person or object does an action. Adverbs are a bit more flexible than adjectives because single-word and multiple-word adverb phrases can generally be placed either before or after the words they modify. Simply, adverbs need to be placed where the reader can clearly grasp the meaning you intend.

☐ Today we must complete the project. "when –adverb of time" ☐ Mitch approached the intersection cautiously. "approached how" ☐ He seems especially competent. "how" ☐ Did you see the schedule there? "where" ☐ The prosecutor did not question him further. " what extent"

Grammar Point ☐ Adverbs add something more to the meaning of the verb. ☐ Adverbs = ads to verb "adds to the meaning of a verb (or an adjective or another adverb) by telling what, when, where, why, how"

2. Position of Adverbs

Adverbs have three main positions in the sentence. They are as follows:

Front Position Middle Position Final Position Front position at the beginning of a sentence (before the subject). ☐ Now we will study adverbs. ☐ Yesterday, I met my friend. Middle position (between the subject and the main verb). Examples: ☐ We often study adverbs. ☐ I usually have my breakfast outside. Final or end position (after the verb or object). Examples: ☐ We study adverbs carefully ☐ I used to drive slowly.

3. Order of Adverbs

There is a basic order in which adverbs will appear when there is more than one. The royal order is as follows: adverbs of manner, adverbs of place, adverbs of frequency, adverbs of time and adverbs of purpose. Consider these sentences then notice the order of the adverbs in the previous sentences in the table below:

☐ Ann studies enthusiastically in the class every day before midday to keep in grade. ☐ Stephan goes impatiently into Algiers every week after dawn to get a transaction. ☐ John revises carefully in his room every week morning to get good marks. ☐ Marry lives interestingly in the countryside every summer in August to remember the family.

The royal order of adverbs in a sentence. 1 2 3 4 5 Manner Place Frequency Time Purpose
enthusiastically in the class every day before midday to keep in grade impatiently into Algiers every
week after dawn to get a transaction. carefully in his room every week morning to remember the
.....

4. Kinds of Adverbs

4. 1. Adverbs of Manner

These adverbs express the manner of an action and answer the question word how. In short, they are used to show how an action took place, is taking place or will take place. They usually occupy the end position of a clause, but they may come at the beginning of the clause in order to emphasize the idea or in the middle position of a clause when the clause contains no adverb of frequency. The following words are

the most common adverbs of manner "quickly, slowly, kindly, bravely, happily, badly, fast, hard, easily, badly, hard, fast, well" Examples:

☐ How is she writing the grammar lesson? She is writing the lesson carefully. ☐ How is he doing the exercise? He is doing the exercise slowly. ☐ We waited patiently for the football match to begin. ☐ Quickly, I sold the fruits in the markets.

4. 2. Adverbs of Place / Position

They are called adverbs of location "adverb phrases and clauses of location". They are used to indicate the place of an action and characteristically answer the question word where. They tell us where something happens. In short, they are used to show where an action took place, is taking place or will take place. They often occupy the end position of a clause, where they precede adverbs of time and adverbs of purpose. The common adverbs of place are: "here, there, near, by, up, down, in, out, everywhere, nowhere, somewhere, anywhere, nowhere else" Examples:

☐ Where is your watch? It's here. ☐ Where is your mother? She has gone out. ☐ I am going there tomorrow. ☐ He left his car in the driveway last night. ☐ I know the company where she works.

4. 3. Adverbs of Frequency

They tell us for how often an action took place, is taking place or will take place. Furthermore, they express the frequency of an action. They answer the question how often? In traditional grammar they are called Adverbs of Number, but in current English they are called Adverbs of Frequency. Some of them are: "usually, often, always, seldom, occasionally, rarely, never, ever, twice, often, every day, normally, frequently, hardly, scarcely, once a week, twice a week, and sometimes..... etc." In a sentence, these adverbs will come directly before a simple verb tense. When these adverbs are used with perfect tenses (have + past participle) they are placed between have and the past participle. If the compound tenses are used as questions, then the frequency adverbs are placed directly before the past participle. Examples:

☐ John always checks out his computers before he sells them to his customers. ☐ Have you ever gone to Stone Mountain near Atlanta? ☐ I had never told false news all over my life.

☐ They rarely talk to each other in the meeting. ☐ They sometimes stay up all night. ☐ Have you ever ridden a plane?

4. 4. Adverbs of Degree or Intensifiers

They tell us about the intensity or degree of an action, an adjective, or another adverb. They answer the question how much? How far? And to what extent? It is worth to mention that in current English they are called intensifiers because they have a heightening or lowering effect on the words they modify. Therefore, the word degree means the amount or level of something. The most common degree adverbs are: "almost, just, nearly, very, fairly, too, quite, enough, hardly, a lot, a bit, a great deal, really, totally, utterly, more, most, barely, absolutely, extremely, perfectly, most, much, hardly, very much, so such, of course, rather,etc." Examples:

☐ She is too ill to go to school. ☐ She is rich enough to purchase a plane. ☐ The teacher is extremely right. ☐ This solution is much the best.

4. 5. Adverbs of Certainty

They are used to express how certain or sure we feel about an action or event. Some of them are as follows: "certainly, definitely, probably, surely.....etc."

☑ Surely, you are the best. ☑ Probably we are going to visit the supermarket later on. ☑ Definitely you are the best.

4. 6. Adverbs of Time

Adverbs of time tell us when the action of the verb does or does not occur. These adverbs state the time of the job, action or events and for how long. In short, they are used to show when an action took place, is taking place or will take place. The most common time adverbs are: "today, yesterday, tomorrow, early, lately, the, once, one of these days, recently, by now, already, someday, still, now, soon, yet, then, later, all day, since, ago, back, before, nowadays, and point in time, afterwards, today, soon, immediately, then, eventuallyetc." these adverbs are usually placed at the very beginning or at the very end on the clause, in front of

position or in the end position. They indicate the time of an action and answer to the question when. Examples:

☑ When will you do this work? I have done it already. ☑ When did you buy this car? I bought it a week ago. ☑ I worked all day for the exam. ☑ Yesterday, i finished the last test. ☑ Now, i am looking for a new job.

5. Adjectives and Adverbs as Modifiers

A modifier is a word that limits, changes, or alters the meaning of another word. Therefore, an adjective limits, changes, or alters the meaning of a noun or pronoun. Adjectives are usually placed before the noun. Examples:

☑ The blue, puffy clouds are near our village. Here the words the, blue and puffy are all modifiers to the noun word clouds. ☑ A sad, carefree child is my neighbor. ☑ A poor dark chocolate layer cake is yours.

There are two main classes of modifying words in English—adjectives and adverbs. Adjectives modify nouns and adverbs modify pretty much everything else—verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. They modify these in much the same way as adjectives modify nouns—by adding criteria that must be met. For example, in ran quickly, quickly modifies ran and therefore requires that whoever ran didn't run in any old way, but did it quickly. Other example includes expressions like take regularly, regularly modifies take and therefore requires that whoever take must do it frequently.

6. Degrees of Comparison

Like adjectives, adverbs too have three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative and superlative. The comparative is formed by adding -er (more in longer ones) and the superlative by -

est (most). a. Adverbs of one syllable take er in the comparative and est in the superlative: ☐ Fast, faster, fastest ☐ Hard, harder, hardest ☐ High, higher, highest

b. Adverbs of two or more syllables form their comparative or superlative form by putting more or most before them: ☐ Slowly, more slowly, most slowly ☐ Politely, more politely, most politely ☐ Sweetly, more sweetly, most sweetly c. Irregular comparatives and superlatives forms ☐ Well, better, best ☐ Badly, worse, worst ☐ Much, more, most

Summary ☐ Morphologically, the most common feature of adverbs is the majority of adverbs have the derivational suffix (-ly), such as quickly, slowly, barely, etc. Syntactically, there are two types of syntactic functions that characterize verbs: 1. Adverbial which modifies or tells us something about the sentence or the verb. It may be a single adverb, a phrase, or a prepositional phrase, or clause element: 2. Modifier of adjective and adverb. Let us consider the following example: - far more easily intelligible. ☐ One of the secrets of good writing is to include lots of details (adjectives), so the reader can accurately see the whole picture you are describing in his/her mind's eye.