

Adverbs

Introduction to Adverbs

An adverb is **a word that describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb.**

For example:

Gini drives **carefully**.

(The word 'carefully' is an adverb. It is describing the verb 'drives'. It is telling us *how Gini drives.*)

It is a **very** beautiful painting.

(The word 'very' is an adverb. It is describing the adjective 'beautiful'. It is telling us *how beautiful the painting is.*)

The team won the match **quite** easily.

(The word 'easily' is an adverb. It is telling us *how the team won the match.* The word 'quite' is also an adverb. It is describing 'easily'. It is telling us *how easily the team won the match.*)

Sometimes, an adverb **can also modify an entire clause that follows it.**

For example:

Luckily, the boy reached home in time.

(The word 'luckily' is an adverb. It is describing the clause 'the boy reached home in time'.)

Sometimes **a clause can perform the role of an adverb** in a sentence.

For example:

The movie started **before I entered the theatre**.

(Here, the clause 'before I entered the theatre' is performing the function of an adverb. It is describing the verb 'started'. It is telling us *when the movie started*.)

Sometimes **a phrase can perform the role of an adverb** in a sentence.

For example:

The girl is singing **very sweetly**.

(Here, the phrase 'very sweetly' is performing the function of an adverb. It is describing the main verb ('singing'). When you ask the question 'singing *how?*', you get the answer '*very sweetly*'.)

Simple Adverbs and Interrogative Adverbs

Simple adverbs

A simple adverb is **one which describes a verb, an adjective or an adverb**.

Words like 'carefully', 'very', 'quite' and 'luckily' are all examples of simple adverbs.

Interrogative adverbs

An interrogative adverb is **one which asks questions**. The interrogative adverbs are as follows:

Why

The answers to all these questions will be in the form of a **REASON**.

Why is she laughing so much?

Why are they clapping?

Why was the man hiding?

Why were the children crying?

Why does he play with a heavy bat?

Why do these machines make so much noise?

Why did Renuka wear that cap to office?

Why has Madhav taken a leave?

Why have you come?

When

The answers to all these questions will be some form of **TIME**.

When is the next train for Lucknow?

When are the guests arriving?

When was Akbar born?

When were you trying to call me?

When does the match start?

When do you leave for college?

When did the postman come?

Where

The answers to all these questions will be some **PLACE**.

Where is my coat?

Where are the books?

Where was the Battle of *Panipat* fought?

Where were those people from?

Where does your wife work?

Where do they both go after dinner?

Where did you leave your phone?

Where has he disappeared?

Where have you been all these years?

How

The answers to these questions will indicate **IN WHAT MANNER**.

How are you going back home?

How was the party?

How do you always manage to finish your work on time?

How does this robot work?

How did he find out?

How is **also attached to an adjective**.

How old is this building?

How tall is he?

How is **also** attached to *much* and *many*.

How much does this suit cost?

How much is that watch worth?

How many children are there in the class?

How many days are there in a week?

How is **also** attached to another adverb.

How often do you bathe in a week?

How quickly can you score runs?

Adverbs of Manner and Degree

Adverbs Expressing Manner

These adverbs **answer the question 'how?'**

Nina **read** the article **carefully**.

(Ask the question 'read *how*?' and you get the answer 'carefully'.)

Gauri **has answered** the question **correctly**.

(Ask the question 'has answered *how*?' and you get the answer 'correctly'.)

The children **waited eagerly**.

(Ask the question 'waited *how*?' and you get the answer 'eagerly'.)

I **can solve** this problem **easily**.

(Ask the question 'can solve *how*?' and you get the answer 'easily'.)

Rishabh **works hard**.

(Ask the question 'works *how*?' and you get the answer 'hard'.)

The new bowler **bowls fast**.

(Ask the question 'bowls *how*?' and you get the answer 'fast'.)

The new recruit **went about** his work **quietly**.

(Ask the question 'went about *how*?' and you get the answer 'quietly'.)

Pick up the phone **quickly**.

(Ask the question 'pick up *how*?' and you get the answer 'quickly'.)

[Note: *An adverb of manner is usually placed after the verb or after the object of the verb.*]

Adverbs Expressing Degree

These adverbs **answer the question 'how much?'**

Raju is a **very naughty** boy.

(Ask the question '*how much* naughty?' and you get the answer 'very'.)

Your last movie was **pretty nice**.

(Ask the question '*how much* nice?' and you get the answer 'pretty'.)

The teacher was **quite angry** with me.

(Ask the question '*how much* angry?' and you get the answer 'quite'.)

That song is **so good**.

(Ask the question '*how much* good?' and you get the answer 'so'.)

My work is **almost done**.

(Ask the question '*how much* done?' and you get the answer 'almost'.)

The Indian team is **fully prepared** for the next match.

(Ask the question '*how much* prepared?' and you get the answer 'fully'.)

I will be **rather busy** tomorrow morning.

(Ask the question '*how much* busy?' and you get the answer 'rather'.)

Your solution is **partly correct**.

(Ask the question '*how much* correct?' and you get the answer 'partly'.)

It was **too hot** yesterday.

(Ask the question '*how much* hot?' and you get the answer 'too'.)

[**Note:** An adverb of degree is usually placed before the adjective or adverb it describes.]

Adverbs of Time and Frequency

Adverbs Expressing Time

These adverbs **answer the question ‘when?’**

He wants to **see** the report **now**.

(Ask the question ‘see *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘now’.)

I will **meet** your principal **tomorrow**.

(Ask the question ‘meet *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘tomorrow’.)

The two teams **play** each other **tonight**.

(Ask the question ‘play *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘tonight’.)

She **came** to the party **yesterday**.

(Ask the question ‘came *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘yesterday’.)

His exam **is today**.

(Ask the question ‘is *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘today’.)

Rajesh **left early**.

(Ask the question ‘left *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘early’.)

Vinod **comes late**.

(Ask the question ‘comes *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘late’.)

He **goes** to the temple **daily**.

(Ask the question ‘goes *when?*’ and you get the answer ‘daily’.)

[Note: *An adverb of time is usually placed after the verb or after the object of the verb.*]

Adverbs Expressing Frequency

These adverbs **answer the question ‘how often?’**

The batsman **never fails**.

(Ask the question ‘*how often* fails?’ and you get the answer ‘never’.)

They **usually go** for a walk after dinner.

(Ask the question ‘*how often* go?’ and you get the answer ‘usually’.)

[Note: *An adverb of frequency is usually placed between the subject and the verb when the verb has only one word.*]

She **has never seen** him before.

(Ask the question ‘has seen *how often*?’ and you get the answer ‘never’.)

My teacher **has often told** me to improve my handwriting.

(Ask the question ‘has told *how often*?’ and you get the answer ‘often’.)

[Note: *When the verb has more than one word, an adverb of frequency is usually placed after the first word of the verb.*]

She is **never at home between 10 and 11**.

(Ask the question ‘*how often* at home between 10 and 11?’ and you get the answer ‘never’.)

They are **always talking**.

(Ask the question ‘*how often* talking?’ and you get the answer ‘always’.)

[Note: When the verb is only 'is', 'am', 'are' or 'was', *an adverb of frequency is usually placed after the verb.*]

Adverbs of Place, Affirmation, Negation and Reason

Adverbs Expressing Place

These adverbs **answer the question 'where?'**

Hearing the noise, the boy **looked up**.

(Ask the question 'looked *where?*' and you get the answer 'up'.)

After fighting the mouse for five hours, the tired cat **fell down**.

(Ask the question 'fell *where?*' and you get the answer 'down'.)

Naina **was standing here**.

(Ask the question 'was standing *where?*' and you get the answer 'here'.)

Why don't you **go there?**

(Ask the question 'go *where?*' and you get the answer 'there'.)

My friends **are calling me outside**.

(Ask the question 'are calling *where?*' and you get the answer 'outside'.)

Let us **go inside**.

(Ask the question 'go *where?*' and you get the answer 'inside'.)

Please **come in**.

(Ask the question 'come *where?*' and you get the answer 'in'.)

My parents **have gone out**.

(Ask the question 'have gone *where*?' and you get the answer 'out'.)

Let us go on foot. They **live near**.

(Ask the question 'live *where*?' and you get the answer 'near'.)

[Note: *An adverb of place is usually placed after the verb or after the object of the verb.*]

Adverbs Expressing Affirmation and Negation

You are **surely** mistaken.

I can **certainly** do this.

The place was very humid **indeed**.

This is **not** right.

Adverbs Expressing Reason or Cause

As mentioned before, a clause can act like an adverb in a sentence. Sometimes such an adverb clause expresses the relation of reason or cause.

He reads a lot of English books **because he wants to improve his English**.

(Here, the clause 'because he wants to improve his English' gives a reason for the verb 'reads'. Ask the question 'reads why?' and you get the clause as the answer.)

The Positive, Comparative and Superlative

Like adjectives, some adverbs also have three forms—the positive, the comparative and the superlative.

Let us look at some adverbs and their different forms.

Where the comparative and superlative are formed by adding ‘-er’ and ‘-est’

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Fast</i>	<i>Faster</i>	<i>Fastest</i>
Gagan runs fast. Girish runs faster than Gagan. Ganesh runs the fastest in his class.		
<i>Hard</i>	<i>Harder</i>	<i>Hardest</i>
Aarti works hard. Aarti has worked harder than ever before. Aarti has worked the hardest this week.		
<i>High</i>	<i>Higher</i>	<i>Highest</i>
My paper plane flies high. Your paper plane does not fly higher than mine. Among a paper plane, a real plane and a bird, a real plane flies the highest.		

Where the comparative and superlative are formed by adding ‘more/less’ and ‘most/least’

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Wisely</i>	<i>More wisely</i>	<i>Most wisely</i>
Solomon judged wisely. Satish judges more wisely than Solomon did. Pankaj judges most wisely when he is in a good mood.		
<i>Fluently</i>	<i>More fluently</i>	<i>Most fluently</i>
He speaks English fluently. They speak English more fluently than their teacher. The people of Timbuktoo speak English most fluently.		
<i>Noisily</i>	<i>More noisily</i>	<i>Most noisily</i>
Jamal entered the room noisily. Jijo goes about his daily chores more noisily than the others living in his room. Together, Jamal and Jijo work most noisily.		

Irregular adverbs

Positive Form	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
<i>Badly</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>Worst</i>
Tony's kid sister bowls badly. Tony's kid brother bowls worse than her. Tony bowls the worst of the three.		
<i>Well</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Best</i>
Tina writes well. Meena writes better than her. Reena writes the best of the three.		
<i>Much</i>	<i>More</i>	<i>Most</i>
My friend Tinku blabbers much. Tinku says that I blabber more than him. Our teacher says that we both blabber the most in class.		
<i>Little</i>	<i>Less</i>	<i>Least</i>

Papi exercises **little**.

He says that his friend Jhapi exercises **less than** him.

Topi, the king of laziness, exercises **the least** of the three.

Far

Farther

Farthest

Ravi threw the discus **far**.

Nikita threw it **farther than** him

Bilal threw it **the farthest** of the three.