

LESSON 11

Adverbs: Words That Tell About Verbs

- I Functions of adverbs.
- II How to form adverbs.
- III Position of adverbs in a sentence.
- IV Types of adverbs
 - 1. Adverb of manner.
 - 2. Adverb of time.
 - 3. Adverb of frequency.
 - 4. Adverb of place.
 - 5. Adverb of quantity or degree.

(i) Functions of adverbs



Read the following story:

Rani was only sixteen but she had to live *alone* in Jaipur. Her father would come *every* weekend from Delhi to meet her, and Rani would finish all her homework as fast as she could and eagerly stand *at the door* waiting for him. He *always* came *punctually* at eight o'clock. One weekend, as she waited for her father, she *suddenly* heard a horn blowing loudly in the street. She *quickly* ran to open the door, but was *greatly* disappointed to see only the driver with the message that her father could not come that weekend *because* of urgent work.

All italicized words are adverbs. What do they tell us?

every	–	describes the frequency or how many times (other such words are always, sometimes, etc.)
always	–	describe how many times has the action taken place
once or twice	–	
quickly	–	describes the way or manner in which the action was done
at eight o'clock	–	describes the time or at what time the action took place.
at the door	–	describes the place of the action.
near	–	describes the place or 'where' the action has taken place.

because	–	gives the reason for the action.
greatly	–	describes the intensity or extent of the action.

Exercise 1

Now read the following story and fill in the blanks with the given adverbs (never, fast, 5 p.m., almost, there, very, here):

Shekhar is walking _____ in fact, he's _____ running. Perhaps he has something _____ urgent to attend to at home and wants to reach there as early as possible. It is _____, and the office must have closed for the day.

He _____ leaves so early. Where does he live? _____ on the ground floor, or _____ in the building at the back? I don't know.

(ii) How to form adverbs

Words like *here, there, now, then, much, less, late, early* function only as adverbs. Adverbs can also be formed by adding 'ly' to an adjective = adjective + ly

For example:	quick – quickly;	beautiful – beautifully;	happy – happily;
	graceful – gracefully;	nice – nicely;	fine – finely,
	foolish – foolishly;	right – rightly;	clever – cleverly;
	haste – hastily .		

But -ly cannot be added to all adjectives.

For example:	good = goodly (incorrect)
	fast = fastly (incorrect)

(iii) Positions of adverbs in a sentence

Much of the meaning of a sentence depends upon the position of the adverb in the sentence. For example, if we say, "Only Abhishek is allowed to go to the library", we mean that the other students in the class are not allowed, but only Abhishek is. On the other hand if we say, "Abhishek is allowed to go only to the library" we mean that except Abhishek no other student in the class is allowed. This illustrates the significance of the position of an adverb in a sentence.

Examples:

- a) *Only* Mohan can write the letter (meaning that no one can write the letter except Mohan)
- b) Mohan can *only* write the letter. (meaning the only thing that Mohan can do is to write the letter)
- c) *Always* remember to be on time. (meaning to remember always)
- d) Remember to be *always* on time. (meaning to be always on time)
- e) He walks *so* fast that no one can beat him. (meaning he walks very fast and therefore no one can defeat him.)
- f) He walks fast *so* no one can beat him. (No one can defeat him because he walks very fast.)

What happens when adverbs are not placed correctly

They reported that Giuseppe Balle, a European rock star, had died on the six o'clock news.

(They reported on the six o' clock news that.....)

Types of adverbs

Let us now take the different types of adverbs and see how they are placed in a sentence.

- Adverbs describing manner:** *the way a work is done or the manner of the action:*

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverb (how the action is done)
He	walks		carefully
They	listen		attentively
You	are walking		so fast
You	should try to do	your work	neatly

Observe that the adverbs of manner, in all these sentences, are placed after the verb, but if there is an object (such as "your work" in the last sentence), the adverb must be placed immediately after it.

Look at the following sentences illustrating the use of adverbs of manner:

(i)	The army is slowly advancing.	incorrect
	The army is advancing slowly.	correct
(ii)	He washes carefully his clothes.	incorrect
	He washes his clothes carefully.	correct
(iii)	We quickly should finish our work.	incorrect
	We should finish our work quickly.	correct

But, when an adverb modifies the whole sentence, it is placed at the beginning as in the following sentences:

- (i) Fortunately, when I reached the station, the train had not left.
- (ii) Obviously, he was telling a lie.
- (iii) Naturally, he felt hurt.

2. Adverbs describing the *place of action*

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverb
The plane	flew		high in the sky.
You	should wait	for me	at the bus stop.
Penguins	live		in the Antarctic.
The children	have to go	with their parents	to school.

Like the adverbs of manner, adverbs of place are also placed after the verb/verb phrase or the object (if there is any).

3. **Adverbs of time:** Adverbs such as *yesterday, today, tomorrow, last week, last Sunday, as soon as, already, next, later or the exact time*, tell us the time of action. These adverbs are positioned just like adverbs of place, after the verb when there is no object, otherwise they are positioned after the object.

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverb of time
He	wears	the same shirt	every day.
The policeman	caught	him	last Sunday.
The movie	will begin		at 6 p.m.

Remember: *When three kinds of adverbs are used together in one sentence to show how, where, and when some action has been done, the adverbs should be used in the following sequence: adverb of manner, adverb of place, adverb of time.*

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverb of Manner	Adverb of Place	Adverb of Time
We	are going			to her house	tomorrow evening.
The girls	will attend	the function	happily	at my residence	tomorrow.
The Prime Minister	appealed	to the public	very strongly		yesterday.

4. **Adverb of frequency:** This kind of adverb answers the question, how often, or how frequently.

Some adverbs of frequency are: *often, sometimes, usually, seldom, always, generally, every day, never, once in a while, three times.*

Subject	Frequency of action	Verb	Remaining sentence
We	often	go	for a walk after dinner.
Mala	never	tells	lies.

Note that the adverb of frequency precedes the verb. But if the verb comprises more than one word it is placed between the auxiliary and the verb/ past participle. See the following example:

Adverb	Auxiliary	Frequency of action	Verb	Remaining Sentence
We	have	often	seen	this car parked here.
She	has	never	done	such bad work earlier.

Note that when you want to emphasize the frequency using an adverb such as 'never' and 'always', it is placed at the beginning of the sentence as illustrated in the following table.

Adverb	Auxiliary	Frequency of action	Verb	Remaining Sentence
Never		try to tell	lies	again in future.
Always	be			cheerful while working.
Soon		came		the end of the film.

Adverbs of quantity or degrees answer the question "how much" or to what extent or degree the action has been done.

The food is *almost* ready ('almost' shows that the food is ready to a great degree)

I am *so* nervous. Here 'so' expresses a great extent.

Assignment

Take a situation from everyday life such as, the behaviour of your younger brothers and sisters at home, or, how well you are cared for at home, or, the greenhouse effect and its impact on our environment, and use suitable adverbs to describe the actions in your sentences. Position the adverbs correctly.

Exercise 2

Place the given adverbs in their right position:

(i) He caught the bus.

(running)

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------|
| (ii) | He speaks to everyone. | (rudely) |
| (iii) | They all treated the poor child. | (sympathetically) |
| (iv) | He spoke and no one could understand what he said. | (too fast) |

Exercise 3

Place the given adverbs of place in their right position.

- | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------|
| (i) | The army is advancing. | (towards Srinagar) |
| (ii) | Hang the clothes to dry. | (out in the sun) |
| (iii) | I am leaving the fruits. | (on the table) |
| (iv) | They looked for the child but could not find. | (everywhere) |
| (v) | You leave the child when you go. | (somewhere) |

Exercise 4

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| (i) | Sheila comes home late from office. | (often) |
| (ii) | He makes the most silly mistakes. | (always) |
| (iii) | She cooks the Chinese food. | (occasionally) |
| (iv) | She has been a trouble maker. | (always) |
| (v) | We have had such tasty food. | (seldom) |
| (vi) | Naresh comes to visit his old uncle. | (often) |
| (vii) | His wife washes the clothes. | (never) |
| (viii) | His wife has been to a Mall. | (never) |

Exercise 5

Describe the actions in the picture using the words given in the box.



dangerously, carefully, wrong, ever, hardly

- (i) Roli : Oh my God! He is riding the motorbike so _____.
- (ii) Neha : Don't worry! These people do it very _____.

- (iii) Roli : Do you think he is feeling scared?
- (iv) Neha : No, isn't. They are perfect. They can never go _____.
- (v) Roli : You are right. I have _____ heard of it.

Answers

Exercise 1

fast, almost, very, 5 p.m., never, here, there

Exercise 2

- (i) He caught the bus *running*. (if you say "running bus" it would mean the bus which is running)
- (ii) He speaks *rudely* to everyone.
- (iii) They all treated the poor child *unsympathetically*.
- (iv) He spoke *too fast* and no one could understand what he said.

Exercise 3

- (i) The army is advancing towards Srinagar.
- (ii) *Hang the clothes out in the sun* to dry.
- (iii) I am leaving the fruits *on the table*.
- (iv) They looked for the child *everywhere* but could not find.
- (v) You leave the child *somewhere* when you go.

Exercise 4

- (i) Sheila *often* comes...
- (ii) He *always* makes ...
- (iii) She *occasionally* cooks...
- (iv) She has *always* been a trouble maker...
- (v) We have *seldom* had such nice food.
- (vi) Naresh *often* comes to see his old uncle. (often)
- (vii) His wife *never* washes the clothes.
- (viii) His wife has *never* been to a Mall.

Exercise 5

- (i) Dangerously (ii) carefully (iv) wrong (v) hardly ever