

Grammar – Adverbs

Position of Adverbs in a Sentence 1

a) Decide what kind of adverb each word is and write it in the correct box below.

really meanwhile there well personally
forever usually probably quite tonight

Adverb of:	Match the word:	Typical position:
viewpoint (<i>states opinion</i>)		start of clause/sentence
conjunction (<i>joins clauses</i>)		start of clause/sentence
frequency (<i>how often</i>)		before main verb but after BE
probability (<i>how likely</i>)		before main verb but after BE
degree (<i>to what extent</i>)		before adjective or adverb
emphasis (<i>how much</i>)		before adjective or adverb
manner (<i>how</i>)		end of clause/sentence
place (<i>where</i>)		end of clause/sentence
time (<i>when</i>)		end of clause/sentence
duration (<i>how long</i>)		end of clause/sentence

Note: typical English word order is **SVOMPT-D**:

Subject	Verb	Object	Manner	Place	Time	Duration
Tim	played	his guitar	badly	at home	yesterday	for an hour.
who	what (do)	what (thing)	how	where	when	how long

We don't need to use all the parts every time!

SVO is considered the main part of the sentence, with **MPT-D** the end section.

b) Write an example sentence for each adverb:

e.g. *Personally, I believe that the team could try a bit harder.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

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Answers:

a)

Adverb of:	Match the word:	Typical position:
viewpoint (<i>states opinion</i>)	personally	start of clause/sentence
conjunction (<i>joins clauses</i>)	meanwhile	start of clause/sentence
frequency (<i>how often</i>)	usually	before main verb but after BE
probability (<i>how likely</i>)	probably	before main verb but after BE
degree (<i>to what extent</i>)	quite	before adjective or adverb
emphasis (<i>how much</i>)	really	before adjective or adverb
manner (<i>how</i>)	well	end of clause/sentence
place (<i>where</i>)	there	end of clause/sentence
time (<i>when</i>)	tonight	end of clause/sentence
duration (<i>how long</i>)	forever	end of clause/sentence

b) Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. **Personally**, I believe that the team could try a bit harder.
2. The bus was forty minutes late. **Meanwhile**, the meeting had started without us.
3. I **usually** get home at four forty pm.
4. They are **probably** annoyed about the builder's constant delays.
5. The test was **quite** difficult.
6. Leaving early was a **really** good idea.
7. Our dog didn't feel **well**, so we took him to the vet's.
8. You can't put up that poster **there**.
9. We're going dancing **tonight**!
10. Hopefully, we will stay together **forever**!

Note: this information is provided as guidance only. The rules about the position of adverbs in a sentence are pretty (degree) good, but they are not written in stone! For example, adverbs of time may come at the start of a clause or sentence, if your intention is to emphasise the time:

Normal word order: We had the final exam **last week**.

Emphasising the time: **Last week** we had the final exam.

In general, the earlier something appears in a sentence, the more important it is to the speaker/writer.

Sometimes a word can be more than one part of speech, e.g.

wrong (adverb) You have **filled in** the form **wrong**. (adverb modifies verb)

wrong (adjective) You have filled in the **wrong form**! (adjective modifies noun)