

Grammar – Adverbs

Position of Adverbs in a Sentence 3

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

never incredibly ago moreover everywhere
permanently possibly too wrong obviously

| 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>) | obviously | start of clause/sentence |
| conjunction (<i>joins clauses</i>) | moreover | start of clause/sentence |
| frequency (<i>how often</i>) | never | before main verb but after BE |
| probability (<i>how likely</i>) | possibly | before main verb but after BE |
| degree (<i>to what extent</i>) | too | before adjective or adverb |
| emphasis (<i>how much</i>) | incredibly | before adjective or adverb |
| manner (<i>how</i>) | wrong | end of clause/sentence |
| place (<i>where</i>) | everywhere | end of clause/sentence |
| time (<i>when</i>) | ago | end of clause/sentence |
| duration (<i>how long</i>) | permanently | end of clause/sentence |

b) Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. Obviously, we're not going to meet our monthly target this time.
2. No, the defendant has not paid the fine, your Honour. Moreover, there are four other fines that he believes he will be unable to pay.
3. I'm never going to finish this dissertation!
4. You are possibly mistaken regarding the judge's character.
5. Unfortunately, the puzzle was too difficult for most of the participants.
6. It was incredibly irresponsible of you to let them ski here!
7. It looks like you read the instructions wrong. Read them again, Barry.
8. Oh no! There are ants running around everywhere!
9. The house was completed about forty years ago.
10. The theme park had to be closed permanently.

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)