

Grammar – Adverbs

Position of Adverbs in a Sentence 4

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

briefly clearly rather sometimes certainly
positively online easily later furthermore

| 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>) | clearly | start of clause/sentence |
| conjunction (<i>joins clauses</i>) | furthermore | start of clause/sentence |
| frequency (<i>how often</i>) | sometimes | before main verb but after BE |
| probability (<i>how likely</i>) | certainly | before main verb but after BE |
| degree (<i>to what extent</i>) | rather | before adjective or adverb |
| emphasis (<i>how much</i>) | positively | before adjective or adverb |
| manner (<i>how</i>) | easily | end of clause/sentence |
| place (<i>where</i>) | online | end of clause/sentence |
| time (<i>when</i>) | later | end of clause/sentence |
| duration (<i>how long</i>) | briefly | end of clause/sentence |

b) Answers will vary. Sample answers:

- Clearly, you have zero intention of taking this meeting seriously!
- Fees will increase by 20% next year. Furthermore, the terms of payment will change to reflect an increase in the number of subscribers.
- We sometimes meet at the café after work for a chat.
- You are certainly an extremely well-qualified and able candidate, Mr. Anderson.
- The cake was rather stale, so I only had a few slices.
- We are positively delighted to be able to announce the birth of our first granddaughter!
- The fox was able to break into the hen house quite easily.
- It appears that the entire conference will have to be held online.
- I'll give you a quick call later.
- Yes, I subscribed to Netflix briefly.

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)