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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 (states opinion)		start of clause/sentence
conjunction (joins clauses)		start of clause/sentence
frequency (how often)		before main verb but after BE
probability (how likely)		before main verb but after BE
degree (to what extent)		before adjective or adverb
emphasis (how much)		before adjective or adverb
manner (how)		end of clause/sentence
place (where)		end of clause/sentence
time (when)		end of clause/sentence
duration (how long)		end of clause/sentence

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

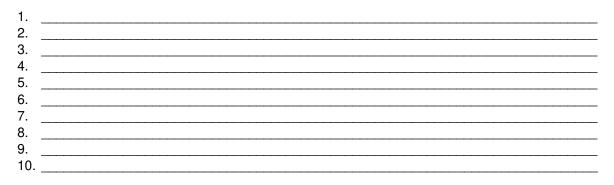
Subject	Verb	Object	Manner	Place	Time	Duration
Tim	played	his guitar	badly	at home	yesterday	for an hour.
who	what (do)	what (thing)	how	where	when	how long

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.



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Answers:

a)

Adverb of:	Match the word:	Typical position:
viewpoint (states opinion)	clearly	start of clause/sentence
conjunction (joins clauses)	furthermore	start of clause/sentence
frequency (how often)	sometimes	before main verb but after BE
probability (how likely)	certainly	before main verb but after BE
degree (to what extent)	rather	before adjective or adverb
emphasis (how much)	positively	before adjective or adverb
manner (how)	easily	end of clause/sentence
place (where)	online	end of clause/sentence
time (when)	later	end of clause/sentence
duration (how long)	briefly	end of clause/sentence

b) Answers will vary. Sample answers:

- 1. Clearly, you have zero intention of taking this meeting seriously!
- 2. Fees will increase by 20% next year. Furthermore, the terms of payment will change to reflect an increase in the number of subscribers.
- 3. We sometimes meet at the café after work for a chat.
- 4. You are certainly an extremely well-qualified and able candidate, Mr. Anderson.
- 5. The cake was rather stale, so I only had a few slices.
- 6. We are positively delighted to be able to announce the birth of our first granddaughter!
- 7. The fox was able to break into the hen house quite easily.
- 8. It appears that the entire conference will have to be held online.
- 9. I'll give you a quick call later.
- 10. 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)

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