

# ADVERBS

## FORMATION

### 1. Adverbs ending in -ly

Adjectives	Adjective	Adverb
Ending in a vowel and -l, add -ly	Beautiful	Beautifully
Ending in -y, drop -y and add -ily	Angry	Angrily
Ending in -le, drop -e and add -ly	miserable	Miserably
Ending in -e, keep -e and add -ly	Extreme	extremely

An adjective ending in *-ly* (e.g. *Friendly, likely, lonely, lovely, silly, ugly*) cannot be made into an adverb. We have to use a phrase instead:

*She started the interview **in a friendly manner**.*  
*He laughed **in a silly way**.*

### 2. Adjectives and adverbs with the same form

Some adjectives and adverbs have the same form. Some common ones are: *fast, early, hard, late, daily, weekly, monthly*:

ADJECTIVES	ADVERBS
He caught the <b>fast</b> train.	He ran <b>fast</b> to catch the train.
He caught the <b>early</b> train.	He always arrives <b>early</b> .
She's a <b>hard</b> worker.	She works <b>hard</b> .
The bus is always <b>late</b> .	I arrived home <b>late</b> .
My <b>daily</b> newspaper cost 90p.	I swim <b>daily</b> .

**Hard** and **hardly** are both adverbs but they have different meanings. *Hardly* means 'almost not'. It can go in various positions in the sentence:

She **hardly** noticed when he came into the room. (= she almost didn't notice)  
I had **hardly** finished my breakfast when they arrived. (= only just)  
Rachel is **hardly** ever absent. (= almost never)

*Hardly* is often used with any:

There was **hardly** anyone in the cinema. (= almost nobody)  
**Hardly** any of the children could read. (= almost none of them)

**Late** and **lately** are both adverbs but they have different meanings. *Lately* means 'recently':

I haven't read any good books **lately**.

### 3. Irregular adverbs

The adverb for *good* is *well*:

It was a **good** concert. The musicians played **well**.

But *well* is also an adjective which means the opposite of ill:

I had a bad headache yesterday but I'm **well** today.

## FUNCTION OF ADVERBS:

Adverbs modify:

### 1. Verbs

*He drives **carelessly**.*

*He drives **fast***

*She played **well** in the concert.*

Some verbs are followed by adjectives, not adverbs (be, get, become, look, seem, appear, sound, taste, smell, feel)

*The flowers **smelt beautiful** and the gardens **looked wonderful**.*

### 2. Adjectives

*The price was **reasonably cheap**.*

### 3. Adverbs

*He finished his exam **incredibly quickly**.*

## COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE FORM OF ADVERBS

### 1. Adverbs ending in *-ly* .

They use **more/ less** for the comparative and **the most / the least** for the superlative:

*My brother speaks Italian **more fluently than** I do.*

*I speak Italian **less fluently than** my brother does.*

*Out of all the students, Maria speaks English **the most fluently**.*

### 2. Adverbs without *-ly* make comparatives and superlatives in the same way as short adjectives.

hard → harder → hardest

high → higher → highest

late → later → latest

I work **hard**, my sister works **harder** than I do but Alex works **the hardest**.

### 3. Some comparative and superlative adverbs are irregular:

well → better → best

*badly* → worse → worst

far → farther → farthest

I did **better** than him in the test

## ADVERB POSITION

Adverbs which tell us :

- **HOW, WHERE** and **WHEN** something happens usually go at the end (end-position):

*The meeting took place **suddenly**. (how?)*

*The meeting took place **in the Town hall**. (where?)*

*The meeting took place **last Tuesday**. (when?)*

If there are several end-position adverbs, we put them in this order:

*The meeting took place **suddenly in the Town Hall last Tuesday**. (how-where-when)*

- **HOW OFTEN** something happens usually go in the middle (mid position) before a single word **verb**:

*I **usually** travel by train*

But after to be:

*I am **often** late.*

If the verb has two or more parts, the adverb usually goes after the first part:

*I have **never** been to this part of town before.*

- **WHEN** something happens can go at the beginning for emphasis (front-position)

***Yesterday** he painted the kitchen.*

We can put other adverbs in front-position for **emphasis**:

***Angrily**, she stormed out of the room.*

***Suddenly**, she burst into tears.*

- **HOW** something happens can sometimes go in all three positions:

***Carefully**, he packed his suitcase.*

*He **carefully** packed his suitcase.*

*He packed his suitcase **carefully**.*



An adverb does not usually go between a verb and its object:

He held **her hand** tightly. (never: ~~he held tightly her hand~~)

## PRACTICE

### 1. Use the adjective in brackets to make adverbs and fill in the gaps.

- Frank picked up the sleeping baby \_\_\_\_\_ (gentle)
- When she handed him his lost wallet, he smiled at her \_\_\_\_\_ (grateful)
- Irma couldn't see her son anywhere and called his name \_\_\_\_\_ (anxious)
- They followed the directions to the hotel \_\_\_\_\_ (easy)
- Tom admitted his mistake and apologised \_\_\_\_\_ (sincere)

2. Underline the correct word.

1. Eleni stepped *confident / confidently* onto the stage to begin her talk.
2. The meeting at lunchtime was a *complete / completely* waste of time.
3. Maruska did *good/ well* in the exam and she won the prize.
4. Mark tried *hard / hardly* to make the hotel receptionist understand him.
5. After looking at the computer screen all day I had an *awful / awfully* headache.
6. Even though Deborah did the job *efficient / efficiently*, they sacked her after two months.
7. The doctor couldn't understand why Carol felt so hot because her temperature was *normal / normally*.
8. The boy behaved *bad / badly* on a school trip so the school refused to take him on any more.

3. Rewrite each sentence with the adverbs in brackets in suitable positions.

1. Katja plays the guitar well for her age. (incredibly)
2. They eat steak because it is so expensive. ( rarely, nowadays)
3. My grandfather used to take us swimming. (in the summer holidays, in the lake)
4. There is a good film on TV. (usually, on Sunday evenings)
5. My mother insisted that good manners are important. (terribly, always)

4. Use one word from the box to fill each gap.

always	earlier	hardly	now	rather	silently	skilfully
		stiffly	very	warmly		

She shut the door silently 1. after her. Her father wasn't expecting her – she had arrived armchair by the window. It was \_\_\_\_\_ 4 old but had been repaired \_\_\_\_\_ 5 so that he could continue using it. The room had been redecorated since her last visit and was looking \_\_\_\_\_ 6 elegant. On the shelves were all the books which her father \_\_\_\_\_ 7 ever looked at any more. She called her father's name. He stood up and she noticed that he moved very \_\_\_\_\_ 8. He smiled and held out his arms to her. She hadn't been in touch with him for five years but \_\_\_\_\_ 9 he welcomed her as \_\_\_\_\_ 10 as he always had.

5. Choose the correct sentence from each pair:

1. a- The child spread the jam thickly on the piece of bread.  
b- The child spread thickly the jam on the piece of bread.
2. a- My grandmother drives more careful since she got older.  
b- My grandmother drives more carefully since she got older.
3. a- I never have bought anything from that expensive shop over there.  
b- I have never bought anything from that expensive shop over there.
4. a- I always have my car repaired at Tony's garage.  
b- At Tony's garage I always have my car repaired.
5. a- My uncle speaks Spanish very well because he lived in Peru for a while.  
b- My uncle speaks very well Spanish because he lived in Peru for a while.
6. a- My sister doesn't make friends as easily than I do.  
b-- My sister doesn't make friends as easily as I do.