

Adverbs

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This lesson will help to:-

- ❖ Study about adverbs.
- ❖ Learn to differentiate between adverbs and adjectives.
- ❖ Learn and understand about different types of adverbs.

Real Life Example

Adverbs are commonly used in day-to-day life along with nouns, pronouns, adjectives, etc. in communication.

Amazing Fact

In Dutch adverbs have the basic form of their corresponding adjectives and are not inflected.

QUICK CONCEPT REVIEW

Adverbs: Adverbs are words that:

- ❖ Modify a verb. Example: He drove slowly. – How did he drive?
- ❖ Modify an adjective. Example: drove a very fast car. – How fast was this car?
- ❖ Modify another adverb. Example: She moved quite slowly down the aisle. – How slowly did she move?

Adverbs often tell when, where, why, or under what conditions something happens or happened. Thus adverbs describe verbs, adjectives and adverbs in terms of such qualities as time, frequency and manner.

Adverbs frequently end in -ly: however, many words and phrases not ending in -ly serve an adverbial function and a -ly ending is not a guarantee that a word is an adverb. The words lovely, lonely, motherly, friendly, neighbourly, for instance, are adjectives.

Adverb clause: If a group of words contain a subject and verb acts as an adverb (modifying the verb of a sentence), it is called an Adverb Clause.

Example: When this class is over, we're going to the movies.

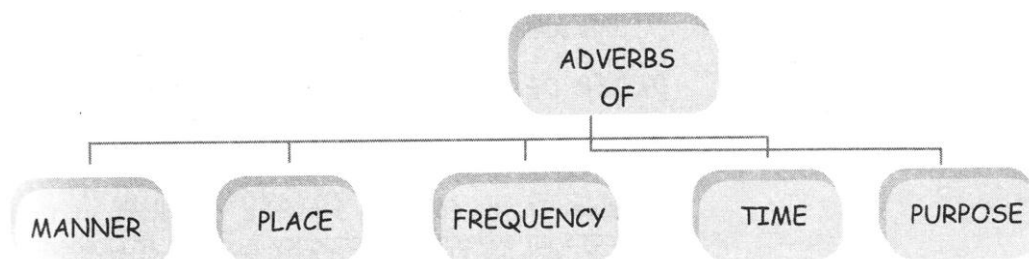
Adverb phrases: when a group of words not containing a subject and verb acts as an adverb, it is called an adverbial phrase. Prepositional phrases frequently have adverbial functions (telling place and time, modifying the verb):

- ❖ He went to the movies.
- ❖ She works on holiday.

Adverbs can modify adjectives, but an adjective cannot modify an adverb. Example: "the students showed a really wonderful attitude."

Like adjectives, adverbs can have comparative and superlative forms to show degree.

- ❖ Walk faster if you want to keep up with me.
 - ❖ The student who reads fastest will finish first.
- We often use more and most, less and least to show degree with adverbs:
- ❖ With sneakers on, she could move more quickly among the patients.
 - ❖ The flowers were the most beautiful arranged creations I've ever seen.
 - ❖ She worked less confidently after her accident.
 - ❖ That was the least skilfully done performance I've seen in years.



KINDS OF ADVERBS

Adverbs of Manner

She moved slowly and spoke quietly.

Adverb of Place

She has lived on the island all her life.

She still lives there now.

Adverbs of Frequency

She takes the boat to the mainland every day.

She often goes by herself.

Adverbs of Time

She tries to get back before dark.

It's starting to get dark now.

She finished her tea first.

She left early.

Misconception/ Concept

Misconception: an adverb says more about (modifies) a verb.

Concept: Although adverbs do indeed modify verbs, they can also modify an adjective, another adverb, a pronoun, or a noun phrase.

Misconception: Adverbs must end in -ly.

Concept: It is worth reiterating that there are many common adverbs without an -ly ending.

Example: yesterday, never, soon, almost and so on.

Adverb of Purpose

She drives her boat slowly to avoid hitting the rocks.

She shops in several stores to get the best buys.

POSITION OF ADVERBS

One of the hallmarks of adverbs is their ability to move around in a sentence.

Adverbs of manner are particularly flexible in this regard.

Example:

- ❖ Solemnly the minister addressed her congregation.
 - ❖ The minister solemnly addressed her congregation.
 - ❖ The minister addressed her congregation solemnly.
- The following adverbs of frequency appear in various points in these sentences:
- ❖ Before the main verb: I never get up before nine o'clock.
 - ❖ Between the auxiliary verb and the main verb: I have rarely written to my brother without a good reason.
 - ❖ Before the verb used to: I always used to see him at his summer home.

ORDER OF ADVERBS

- ❖ As a general principle, shorter adverbial phrases precede longer adverbial phrases.
Example: In the following sentence, an adverb of time precedes an adverb of frequency because it is shorter (and simpler):
Dad takes brisk walk before breakfast every day of his life.
- ❖ A second principle: among similar adverbial phrases of kind (manner, place, frequency, etc.), the more specific adverbial phrase comes first.
Example: she promised to meet him for lunch next Tuesday.
- ❖ Bringing an adverbial modifier to the beginning of the sentence can place special emphasis on that modifier. This is particularly useful with adverbs of manner:

RELATIVE ADVERBS

These adverbs can be used to join sentences or clauses. They replace the more formal structure of preposition+ which in a relative clause: where, when, why.

Example:

- ❖ That's the restaurant where we met for the first time.
(where = at/in which)
- ❖ There was a very hot summer the year when he was born.
(when = in which)

NEGATIVE ADVERBS

The negative adverb creates a negative meaning in a sentence without the use of the usual no/not/neither/nor/never constructions:

- ❖ He seldom visits.
- ❖ She hardly eats anything since the accident.
- ❖ After her long and tedious lectures, rarely was anyone awake.

INTERROGATIVE VERBS

An interrogative adverb asks a question. the interrogative adverbs are how, when, where and why.

- ❖ How did you get here?
- ❖ Where are you going next?

CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS

A conjunctive adverb joins two ideas. It can give emphasis to one of the ideas, or answer the question. "How are they related?" Some common conjunctive adverbs are besides, however, indeed, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, and therefore.

- ❖ I am allergic to cats: nevertheless, I love them.
- ❖ It might rain later: therefore, we should pack our umbrellas.

A semicolon is used before a conjunctive adverb, and a comma is used for it.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ADJECTIVE AND ADVERB

- ❖ Adjectives describe a noun or pronoun.
- ❖ Adverbs describe a verb, adjective, or any other adverb.