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# Adverbs

## Kinds of Adverbs

There are **9 kinds** of Adverbs —

**1. Adverb of Time (showing 'time')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Time**—

Now, then, before, after, since, ago, soon, late, early, presently, instantly, immediately, already, afterwards, never, when, whenever, today, tomorrow, yesterday, ever.

**2. Adverb of Place (showing 'place'/'Where')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Place**—

Here, there, where, hence, thence, hither, thither, in, out, within, without, above, below, inside, outside, far, near, everywhere, away, forward, backward.

**3. Adverb of Number (showing 'how often'/'frequency')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Number**—

How often, once, twice, thrice, often, seldom, frequently, rarely, again, always, firstly, secondly, thirdly, sometimes.

**4. Adverb of Quantity/Degree (showing 'how much')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Quantity or Degree**—

Too, almost, fully, very, enough, so, altogether, no better, pretty well, any, quite, rather, partly, wholly, as..as.

**5. Adverb of Manner (showing 'how' or 'in what manner')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Manner**—

Cheerfully, unwillingly, clearly, soundly, strongly, bravely, hard, thus, so, cowardly, slowly, quickly, actively, fast, nobly, proudly, lovingly.

**6. Adverb of Reason or Cause (showing 'reason'/'cause')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Reason or cause**—

Owing to, due to, consequently, hence, therefore.

**7. Adverb of Affirmation or Negation (showing 'yes' or 'no')**—The following are the more common **Adverbs of Affirmation or Negation**—

yes, no, not, certainly, certainly not, yea, may, by all means.

**8. Interrogative Adverb (for asking questions)**—The following are the more common **Interrogative Adverbs**—

Why, when, what, where, how, how many, how long, how far, whence, whither, what, wherefore.

**9. Relative Adverb (showing 'relationship')**—These Adverbs show '**relationship**'. In form they are like Interrogative Adverbs. Like Relative Adjectives, they must have an **Antecedent**, and the Adverb must refer to this Antecedent. If there is no Antecedent before it, it would become Interrogative Adverb, and not Relative Adverb. The more common Relative Adverbs are these—

What, when, where, why, how, whence, whither, whatever, wherever.

## Degrees of Comparison in Adverbs

Some Adverbs, specially **Adverbs of Manner, Degree and Time** have **three Degrees of comparison** like Adjectives. The **three Degrees** are—

Positive Degree, Comparative Degree and Superlative Degree.

Their Degrees are formed in the following three ways.

1. The Adverbs of **one syllable** in their Positive Degree become **Comparative** or **Superlative** by adding **-er** or **-est** respectively. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Late	Later	Latest
Long	Longer	Longest
Short	Shorter	Shortest
Loud	Louder	Loudest
Near	Nearer	Nearest
Soon	Sooner	Soonest
Hard	Harder	Hardest

2. The Adverbs which end with **ly**, become **Comparative** or **Superlative** by using **more** or **most** before them. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Swiftly	more swiftly	most swiftly
Skilfully	more skilfully	most skilfully
Wisely	more wisely	most wisely
Intelligently	more intelligently	most intelligently
Regularly	more regularly	most regularly
Diligently	more diligently	most diligently
Slowly	more slowly	most slowly
Powerfully	more powerfully	most powerfully

**Note**—But with **early** we use **earlier** or **earliest**.

3. But some **Adverbs** are there the **Comparative** or **Superlative** Degrees of which are formed under **no rules**. They are called **irregular Adverbs**. As—

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Much	more	most
Little	less	least
Bad	worse	worst
Well	better	best
Far	farther	farthest
Forth	further	furthest
Late	later	last

## Position of Adverbs

### Rule 1—Position of Adverbs—

It is very important to know the correct **place** or **position** at which an **Adverb** should be used in a **Sentence**. If the **Adverb** is not placed at the correct position in a sentence, the meaning of the sentence would **change**, or it may even become **absurd** or **meaningless**. For example, see the **position** of **only** in the following sentence. You will see that the meaning of the sentence changes with the change of position of the Adverb **only** in it.

- (i) **Only** he can read.  
(i.e. no other person except he)
- (ii) He can **only** read.  
(i.e. he can only **read**, but can **neither write nor speak**.)
- (iii) He can read **only**.  
(i.e. He can do nothing except reading)

The following are the **Rules of correct position** of an Adverb in a Sentence—

(a) **Adverb of Manner**—It is generally used **after the Verb**, but if the verb has its **object** also, the Adverb is used **after the Object**. As—

1. He **speaks softly**.  
(Not, He **softly speaks**)
2. He **drives cautiously**.  
(Not, He **cautiously drives**)
3. He **reads his book carefully**.  
(Not, He **reads carefully his book**)
4. I **visit him regularly**.  
(Not, I **regularly visit him**)
5. She **loves him heartily**.  
(Not, She **heartily loves him**)

(b) **Adverbs** or **Adverb phrases** of **Time** and **Place**. They are also used **after the Verb**. As—

1. He **will return soon**.  
(Not, He **soon will return**)
2. He **goes there**.  
(Not, He **there goes**)
3. I **go home next week**.  
(Not, I **next week go home**)
4. There **were flowers everywhere**.  
(Not, There **were everywhere flowers**)

(c) If after the verb or its object **two or more than two** Adverbs are to be used, they should be placed in this **order—adverb of manner, adverb of place, adverb of time**. As—

1. He spoke **impressively at the function yesterday**.
2. She wept **bitterly at the playground last evening**.
3. He comes **regularly at the stadium every morning**.
4. You should reach **home by this evening**.

(d) **Adverbs of frequency** (*e.g.* **always, never, often, rarely, usually, generally, almost, already, hardly, nearly, just, quite**) They are used **between** the Subject and Verb if the verb is of **one word** only (*as, goes, runs, play, etc.*), but if the verb has **more than one word** (*as, is going, has been working*), the Adverb is placed **after the first word** of the verb. As—

1. I **just** saw him at the gate.
2. He has **already** finished his work.
3. He has **rarely** been coming to me.
4. He has **frequently** been absenting himself from the class.
5. We **usually** go there.

(e) All the Adverbs listed above (under **d**) are placed **after** the **Auxiliary Verbs** (*i.e.* **is, are, am, was, were**), but **before** other verbs. As—

1. I am **always** ready.
2. He is **often** late.
3. We were **never** happy there.
4. He **seldom** comes here.
5. He **generally** travels by bus.
6. I **frequently** meet him in the market.

(f) If some **stress** is to be laid on a verb, or if a reply is to be given in a **short form**, all the **Adverbs** (listed above under **d**) should be placed **before** the **Auxiliary Verbs** or single verb **be**. As—

1. “He has again forgotten to bring his books.”  
“Yes, he **always** does forget to bring his books.”
2. “Are you free this evening ?”  
“Yes, I **usually** am free in the evenings.”
3. “When does he go to Bombay ?”  
“He **already** has gone to Bombay.”

4. “Do you travel by plane ?”

“Yes, I **sometimes do**.” (short form answer)

(g) The Adverb is placed before the Auxiliaries **have to / used to**. As—

1. I **often have to** go by bus.
2. He **always used to** be kind to me.
3. He **never has to** go alone.

(h) The Adverb is placed before the **Adjective** or **another adverb** which it modifies. As—

1. His lecture was **very** interesting.
2. He is **very** highly qualified.
3. Do you drive **so** fast ?
4. He is **wonderfully** intelligent.

(i) Adverb **enough** is always placed **after the word** it modifies. As—

1. He was **good enough** to help me.
2. This house is **large enough** for our purpose.
3. He is **brave enough** to face the situation.

(j) Adverb **only** is placed just **before** the word it modifies. As—

1. He worked **only** for two hours yesterday.
2. I attempted **only** twice to climb to the top.

**Note**—But in spoken English **only** can be used before the **Verb**. As—

1. He **only** worked for two hours yesterday.
2. I **only** attempted twice to climb to the top.

(k) Negative Adverb ‘**not**’ is always placed **between** the Auxiliary Verb and the Principal Verb. As—

1. He did **not** reach in time.
2. I shall **not** meet him.
3. He has **not** spoken a word.

### Exercise I

**Correct the position of the Adverb in the following sentences :**

1. He **only** died a month ago.
2. He **soon** will finish his work.
3. He is **enough** rich to set up a new factory.
4. I **almost** have finished my course.

5. The rain began to fall **suddenly**.
6. I have met **often** that man.
7. He explained **clearly** his point of view.
8. I go **seldom** after sunset.
9. He **merely** came to return my book.
10. He bore his losses **patiently**.
11. Ram is a lazy boy **rather**.
12. I **never** am late for school.
13. He does **carefully** all his work.
14. The mother **heartily** loves her daughter.
15. He has spoken **not** a word.

**Hints**—(1) only a month; (2) will soon; (3) rich enough; (4) have almost finished; (5) suddenly began to fall; (6) have often met; (7) clearly explained; (8) seldom go; (9) came merely to return; (10) patiently bore; (11) rather a lazy; (12) never late; (13) all his work carefully; (14) daughter heartily; (15) has not spoken.

### **Exercise II**

**Insert the given Adverbs (or Adverb Phrases) in their right position in the following sentences :**

1. This is not bright (enough).
2. You should behave like this (never).
3. Will he be found (there, still) ?
4. He goes to the market (seldom).
5. I am late for the office (never).
6. He is lecturing (tomorrow morning, at the auditorium).
7. I saw him going out (just).
8. He was standing (at the gate, a little while ago).
9. I go to school on foot (usually).
10. He is angry with me (rarely).
11. Please meet me (this evening, in the park).
12. He invites me to tea (often).
13. The plane has landed (just).
14. We go to Church (regularly).
15. I shall be meeting you (frequently).

**Hints**—(1) bright enough; (2) should never behave; (3) found still there; (4) seldom goes; (5) am never late; (6) lecturing at

the auditorium tomorrow morning; (7) just saw; (8) standing at the gate a little while ago; (9) usually go; (10) rarely angry; (11) me in the park this evening; (12) often invites me; (13) has just landed; (14) regularly go; (15) shall frequently be meeting.

**Rule 2**—If an Adverb modifies (a) the whole sentence or (b) if it is meant to give very great stress, it is placed at the very **beginning** of the sentence. As—

1. **Unfortunately** a very serious accident occurred.
2. **Luckily** no one was killed.
3. **Out** came the lion from the den and stood before us.

**Rule 3—Double Negative**

**Double Negatives** should not be used in a sentence. Double Negatives give either **Affirmative meaning** or **no meaning** at all. Their use is, therefore, wrong.

1. I **cannot** walk **no** further now.  
(There should be 'any further' in place of 'no further'.)
2. **Nothing** **never** happened.  
(There should be 'ever' in place of 'never'.)
3. I **don't** want **nothing**.  
(There should be 'anything' in place of 'nothing'.)
4. He was **not** honest **neither**.  
(There should be 'either' in place of 'neither'.)
5. I **forbid** you **not** to go there.  
(**'not'** should be removed from here because **'forbid'** is already **negative**.)

### **Exercise III**

**Correct the following sentences :**

1. A great tragedy luckily has been averted.
2. All the passengers were unfortunately killed.
3. We cannot bear it no longer.
4. We could not find him nowhere.
5. I don't see no sense in it.
6. Scarcely no one would believe in your story.

7. I don't have no one to go with me.
8. You are forbidden not to touch my books.
9. He cannot neither deny or accept it.
10. He is no longer in no need of it.

**Hints**—(1) **Luckily** to come at the beginning of the sentence; (2) **Unfortu-nately** to come at the beginning; (3) **any longer** in place of **no longer**; (4) **anywhere** in place of **nowhere**; (5) **any** in place of **no**; (6) **anyone** in place of **no one**; (7) **anyone** in place of **no one**; (8) drop **not**; (9) **either** in place of **neither**; (10) **any need** in place of **no need**.

## Use of Some Typical Adverbs

### 1. Too

'**Too**' means more than enough. Therefore **too** should not be used in place of **very** or **much**, otherwise it would give absurd meaning. For example, if we say, "I am too happy to hear of your success", it would mean that "I am happy to the extent I should not have been." Certainly this cannot be the intention of the speaker. The correct form of this sentence would be, "I am **very** happy to hear of your success." It should be remembered that '**too**' has a **negative sense** or the sense of **undesirability**. **Too** should be used keeping in mind this sense of its meaning and implication. For example, the following sentences are wrong—

1. You are **too** kind to me.
2. She is **too** beautiful.
3. He is **too** intelligent.
4. You are **too** faithful to me.

Against these the following sentences are correct—

1. The day is **too** hot.
2. The price is **too** high for me.
3. The house is **too** small for my family.
4. You are still **too** weak.
5. The weather is **too** cold.
6. It is **too** much for me to bear.

### 2. Too + Infinitive

In some sentences an **Infinitive** is used after **too**. In such sentences also the sense of **too** is negative. In these sentences the use of **too** would be correct if it is meant to be **negative**, but its use would be wrong if it is meant to be **affirmative**. For example, see the following sentences—

1. He is **too poor to buy** a car.
2. He is **too rich to buy** a car.

The first of these sentences is correct because it means that—

"He is so poor that he cannot buy a car." But the second sentence is wrong because it would mean "He is so rich that he cannot buy a car." The correct form of the second sentence would be, "He is **rich enough** to buy a car." The following sentences are correct—

1. He is **too** weak **to run**.
2. The river is **too** deep for me **to cross**.
3. The enemy is **too** strong **to be overcome** easily.
4. The problem is **too** difficult for me **to solve**.

### 3. Very and Much

'**Very**' is used with **Present Participle**, and '**much**' with **Past Participle** or **Verb**. As—

1. It was **very** surprising.
2. The game was **very** exciting.
3. He was **much** surprised.
4. I was **much** shocked to hear the news.
5. He was **much** confused.
6. He **talks** much.
7. He **drinks** much.

**Note**—But with some **Past Participles** the use of **very** is correct. As—

1. I was **very** pleased to hear the news.
2. He was **very** tired at the end of the journey.

### 4. Very and Much

There is one more difference in the use of **very** and **much**. **Very** is used before the **Positive Degree** of an **Adjective** or an **Adverb**, and **much** before the **Comparative Degree** of an **Adjective** or an **Adverb**. As—

1. Ram's house is **much** bigger than Mohan's.
2. Mohan is **much more** trustworthy than Sohan.
3. Hari is **much** better placed than Rajesh.
4. Ram is **very** intelligent.
5. Mahesh is **very** poor.

**Note**—Under the above rule **very much** can also be used (in place of **much**) in the **Comparative Degree**, but **not** in the **Positive Degree**.

### 5. Very and Much

**Very** and **Much** can both be used in the **Superlative Degree** also but the rule is that **Very** is used after the Article **the**, and **much** before **the**. As—

1. He is **much the best** boy of the class.
2. Rakesh is **much the richest** man of the town.
3. Cow is **the very gentlest** animal.
4. This is **the very best** book available here.

### 6. Much and Very Much

**Very much** can be used with the **Verb** in **Affirmative sentences** only, but in the **Negative sentences** only **much** can be used. As—

1. I love him **very much**.
2. I don't love him **much**.  
(Wrong to say—"I don't love him **very much**")

### 7. Very much, Too much, Much too and only too

All these **four** phrases have different meanings. 'Very much' means '**completely**', '**too much**' and '**much too**' mean '**more than necessary or desirable**', **only too** means '**much**'. As—

1. I am **very much** obliged to you.
2. His performance is **very much** disappointing.
3. It gives me **too much** pain.
4. It is **much too** painful.
5. I am **only too** glad to be here.

### Exercise IV

Correct the use of Adverbs in the following sentences :

1. She loves her only son too much.
2. My old servant is too faithful to me.
3. He is too gracious to help me.
4. He is too kind to forgive me.
5. My father is too generous to his servants.
6. She was very shocked to see the scene of accident.

7. I was very surprised to see him in this condition.
8. The scene of accident was much shocking.
9. She was much pleased to see her son's result card.
10. He felt much tired after the day's hard labour.
11. This book is very better than the other one.
12. He appears to be much ambitious.
13. His achievement is really much creditable.
14. This is the much biggest house available here.
15. This is very the best I could do for you.
16. We have given you the much largest share of the profit.
17. You have now very the first chance of purchasing this house.
18. I could not appreciate his efforts very much.
19. This could not give me very much satisfaction.
20. This medicine has given me too much relief.

**Hints**—(1) '**much**' in place of '**too much**'; (2) very faithful; (3) '**gracious enough**' in place of '**too gracious**'; (4) '**kind enough**' in place of '**too kind**'; (5) '**very generous**'; (6) '**much shocked**'; (7) '**much surprised**'; (8) '**very shocking**'; (9) '**very pleased**'; (10) '**very tired**'; (11) '**much better**'; (12) '**very ambitious**'; (13) '**very creditable**'; (14) '**much the biggest**'; (15) '**the very best**'; (16) '**much the largest**'; (17) '**the very first**'; (18) '**much**' in place of '**very much**'; (19) '**much**' in place of '**very much**'; (20) '**much**' in place of '**too much**.'

### 8. Too and Even

The difference between **too** and **even** is that **too** is used only for **empha-sis**, while **even** is used in the sense of '**against or contrary to hope or expectation**.' For example, a brother is normally expected to help a brother, but if a brother does not help, we shall say—

‘**Even** my brother did not help me.’

Similarly—

1. He helped me and my friend **too**.
2. He is intelligent and industrious **too**.
3. **Even** my father did not support me.
4. I could not **even** recognize him.

## 9. Little and A Little

**Little** and **a little** as **Adverbs** have the same meaning as **Adjectives**. **Little** is **negative** in sense meaning ‘almost nothing’ while **a little** means ‘not much’. As—

1. I **little** expected that he would pass.  
(i.e. There was **almost no hope**.)
2. I was **a little** disappointed.  
(i.e. The disappointment was **not much**.)

## 10. Since and Ever Since

They are both **Adverbs of time**. **Since** means from a **certain point of time** in the Past, while **ever since** means from a **certain point of time to the Present**. They are used with the **Present Perfect Tense**, but in the **Indirect Narration** they are used with **Past Perfect Tense**. As—

1. I met him five years ago and have remembered him **ever since**.
2. We were together in school days but we have met only twice **since**.
3. He assured me that he had never done so **since**.
4. We lived in Kashmir several years ago but we have remembered those happy days **ever since**.

### Exercise

Fill in the blanks with correct alternatives from those given in the brackets:

1. I bought a pen and an inkpot ..... (**too, even**)
2. He lost ..... his security. (**too, even**)
3. My brother came and with him his friend ..... (**too, even**)
4. .... the best doctors failed to diagnose his disease. (**Too, Even**)
5. He is ..... displeased with me. (**little, a little**)
6. I ..... doubted his sincerity. (**little, a little**)

7. There is still ..... hope of his survival. (**little, a little**)
8. There is ..... hope of his survival. (**little, a little**)
9. There is ..... I can do to help you. (**little, a little**)
10. I came to Kanpur five years ago but I have not been to my home-town ..... . (**since, ever since**)
11. I came to Kanpur five years ago but I have been to my home-town only once ..... . (**since, ever since**)
12. I had injured my knee **four** years ago but I have been feeling pain in it ..... (**since, ever since**)

**Hints**—(1) too; (2) even; (3) too; (4) Even; (5) a little; (6) little; (7) a little; (8) little; (9) little; (10) ever since; (11) since; (12) ever since.

## 11. Else ..... but

**Else** is followed by **but**, not **than**.

1. None **else but** the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Seminar.
2. I met none **else but** your father.
3. It is nothing **else but** arrogance.

## 12. Seldom or never/Seldom if ever

The correct expressions are **seldom or never** (not **ever**) and **seldom if ever** (not **never**).

1. He **seldom or never** misbehaves with anybody.
2. He **seldom if ever** drinks.

## 13. Before and Ago

Both these are **Adverbs of Time**. **Before** is used with **Simple Past Tense** or **Present Perfect Tense**, while **Ago** is used with **Simple Past Tense** only (not with **Present Perfect Tense**). As—

1. I never **before** met such a rude man.
2. I have seen Jaipur **before** also.
3. I met him a month **ago**.
4. His father died a month **ago**.

**Note**—**Ago** suggests **Past Tense**, therefore it should **not** be used with any form of the **Present Tense**. Therefore the following sentences are **wrong**—

1. I **have arrived** here only a little **ago**.
2. I **have completed** my work an hour **ago**.

### 14. Yet and Still

**Yet** means ‘till now’ and **still** means ‘even now’. Generally **yet** is used at the **end** of a sentence, and **still** after an **auxiliary** or before **single verbs**.

1. He is **still** in service.
2. You are **still** a student.
3. I **still** love you.
4. He **still** needs my help.
5. He has not come **yet**.
6. He is sleeping **yet**.

### 15. Yet and Already

**Already** is used in **Affirmative sentences** and it means **before this point of time**. **Yet** is used in **Negative or Interrogative sentences**, and it means **even now or not till now**. As—

1. I have **already** finished my work.
2. He has left for office **already**.
3. I have **not yet** finished my work.
4. He has **not yet** left for office.
5. Are you **not yet** ready ?

### 16. Yet/Already/So far/uptil now

All these are generally used with **Present Perfect Tense**. As—

1. He **has not yet** come.
2. I **have already** met him.
3. He **has not met** me **so far**.
4. He **has not met** me **uptil** now.

### Exercise

**Correct the use of adverbs in the following sentences :**

1. None else except I will come to your help in the end.
2. None else than my father appeared at the scene.
3. It is nothing else except your pride that spoilt the game.
4. He seldom or ever is true to his word.
5. He seldom if never comes to the alehouse.
6. I have met him two years ago.
7. I have been to Bombay several times ago also.
8. I played tennis ago.

9. He has started a new business some time ago.
10. He has left office only a minute ago.
11. I have not seen him for a long time but he is yet my friend.
12. He has not still gone on duty.
13. I have yet given your share to you.
14. The child has yet gone to sleep.
15. He has not already reserved his berth.
16. She has not already shifted to her new house.

**Hints**—(1) ‘**but**’ in place of ‘**except**’; (2) ‘**but**’ in place of ‘**than**’; (3) ‘**but**’ in place of ‘**except**’; (4) seldom or never; (5) if ever; (6) ‘**before**’ in place of ‘**ago**’; (7) ‘**before**’ in place of ‘**ago**’; (8) ‘**before**’ in place of ‘**ago**’. (9) ‘**before**’ in place of ‘**ago**’; (10) ‘**before**’ in place of ‘**ago**’; (11) ‘**still**’ in place of ‘**yet**’; (12) ‘**yet**’ in place of ‘**still**’; (13) ‘**already**’ in place of ‘**yet**’; (14) ‘**already**’ in place of ‘**yet**’; (15) ‘**yet**’ in place of ‘**already**’; (16) ‘**yet**’ in place of ‘**already**’.

### 17. Just

(a) **Just** means **right now / not long before**. Normally it is used with **Present Perfect Tense**. As—

1. He has **just** arrived.
2. I have **just** finished my story.

(b) **Just** can be used with **simple past tense** also, and there it means **only / barely**. As—

1. He **just** caught the train.
2. He **just** managed to escape.

(c) **Just** has one more meaning suggesting the sense of **at this very moment / exactly**. As—

1. The clock has **just** struck two.
2. He has **just** gone out.
3. This is **just** what I wanted.

### 18. Fairly/Rather

Both these are **Adverbs of Quantity**. The difference between them is that **fairly** has the sense of **liking / appreciation**, while **rather** has the sense of **disliking / disapproval**. Therefore, care should be taken not to use expressions in which there may be **mingling of liking and**

**disliking.** For example, the following expressions are **wrong**—

- (a) Fairly dull, fairly ugly, fairly bad, fairly slow, fairly cunning
- (b) rather intelligent, rather beautiful, rather good, rather quick, rather honest, rather gentle

In the expressions given above **fairly** should be used in place of **rather**, and **rather** in place of **fairly**.

1. The weather is **fairly pleasant**. (Not **rather pleasant**)
2. The day is **rather hot**. (Not **fairly hot**)
3. The house is **fairly comfortable**.
4. The house is **rather uncomfortable**.

## 19. No/Not

(a) '**No**' is used like an **Adjective** before a **Noun**—

1. I have **no** pen.
2. There is **no** boy in the class.

(b) **Not** is used after an **auxiliary**—

1. He does **not** read.
2. He is **not** there.

(c) After the under-noted verbs **Not** is used in place of a **Noun Clause**. By this use the sentence becomes **short** also.

**Hope, believe, think, expect, suppose, be afraid**

1. Can you go there ? I **am afraid not**.
2. Will he pass ? I **expect not**.
3. Is he fair ? I **suppose not**.

(d) **Not** is also used before an **Infinitive** or a **gerund**.

1. I request you **not to disturb** me.
2. You are wrong **in not inviting** him.

## 20. No/Not/None

(a) **No** is also used before a **Positive** or **Comparative Degree Adjective** or a **Comparative Degree Adverb**.

1. This is **no good** pen.
2. There is **no better** pen.
3. You can travel **no faster** by any means.

(b) We should use **not** in place of **no** if the Article **a** or **an** has been used before the **Noun** or **Adjective**. As—

1. **Not a** tree or bush was there.

2. There was **not a** man in the hall.

(c) We should use **no** (not **not**) before **good** or **different**. As—

1. This is **no good** abusing him.
2. This is **no different** from that.

(d) We should use **none** before **too + Adjective / Adverb** or **the + Comparative Adjective/ Adverb** used in a sentence. As—

1. His behaviour towards us was **none too good**.
2. He is **none the better** in spite of my help.

## Exercise

**Insert correct alternatives from those given in the brackets :**

1. The train has .....started. (**just, lately**)
2. The bell has.....been rung.  
(**immediately, just**)
3. It is ..... a good day. (**fairly, rather**)
4. His condition is ..... worse today.  
(**fairly, rather**)
5. She can speak English ..... well.  
(**fairly, rather**)
6. He is a ..... intelligent boy.  
(**fairly, rather**)
7. It was ..... foolish on his part to say so.  
(**fairly, rather**)
8. She is ..... a silly kind of girl.  
(**fairly, rather**)
9. This bread is ..... dry. (**fairly, rather**)
10. There is ..... sound coming from the room. (**no, not**)
11. This book is ..... better than the other one. (**no, not**)
12. Can you think of.....better plan ?  
(**no, not**)
13. .... a star was to be seen in the sky.  
(**no, not**)
14. The show was ..... very impressive.  
(**no, not**)
15. .... a word was spoken by anybody.  
(**no, not**)
16. This is ..... too good for you.  
(**no, none, nothing**)

17. His health is ..... too good for his age.  
(no, none, nothing)
18. There is ..... a cleverer girl than Rita.  
(not, none, nothing)
19. There is ..... the slightest truth in this story.  
(no, none, not)
20. There is ..... like that in this shop.  
(no, none, nothing)

**Hints**—(1) just; (2) just; (3) fairly; (4) rather; (5) fairly; (6) fairly; (7) rather; (8) rather; (9) rather; (10) no; (11) no; (12) no; (13) Not; (14) not; (15) Not; (16) none; (17) none; (18) not; (19) not; (20) nothing.

## 21. Hard/Hardly

Normally **Hard** is an **Adjective**, but it can also be used as an **Adverb**. As an **Adverb** it means **hard labour**. It is used after the **Verb**. As—

1. He worked **hard** (**not hardly**) for the examination.
2. He tried **hard** (**not hardly**) to win the prize.

**Hardly** is an **Adverb of Degree**. It means '**very little**' / **scarcely**. It is used before a **Single verb** or after the **First auxiliary** in a **Compound Verb**. As—

1. I have seen him only once and therefore I **hardly know** what type of man he is.
2. He was so changed that I **could hardly recognize** him.
3. It is a new medicine; it has **hardly** been tried yet.

**Note**—For **emphasis** '**Hardly**' can be used at the beginning of a sentence also. As—

**Hardly** had the train stopped when he jumped out.

## 22. Late/Lately

**Late** as **Adverb** means late in time. As—

1. He comes **late** every day.
2. The theft was committed **late** at night.
3. He married **late** in life.

**Lately** means '**recently**'. As—

1. He has **lately** started a new business.
2. He has **lately** shifted to a new house.

## 23. Most/Mostly

**Most** as **Adverb** means 'maximum' / 'greatest'. As—

1. The man whom I like **most** is John.
2. The man who talks **most** is often hollow.

**Mostly** means '**largely**'. As—

1. The audience consisted **mostly of** students.
2. The students were **mostly** inattentive.
3. His stock consists **mostly** of outdated things.

## Exercise

**Fill in the blanks with the correct alternatives given in the brackets—**

1. She has eaten ..... anything today.  
(hard, hardly)
2. He tried very ..... but did not succeed.  
(hard, hardly)
3. They have been working ..... all day.  
(hard, hardly)
4. He had ..... alighted from the bus when he was caught by the police.  
(hard, hardly)
5. We ..... ever meet now. (hard, hardly)
6. His marriage takes place..... in October.  
(late, lately)
7. Have you received any letter from your son ..... ?  
(late, lately)
8. I have not been to my village .....  
(late, lately)
9. I study till ..... in the night. (late, lately)
10. The train is running an hour .....  
(late, lately)
11. The books in his library are ..... novels.  
(most, mostly)
12. He helped me ..... to get over my difficulties.  
(most, mostly)
13. The greatest scholars have been ..... men.  
(most, mostly)
14. The candidates are ..... inexperienced.  
(most, mostly)
15. She loves her .....  
(most, mostly)

**Hints**—(1) hardly; (2) hard; (3) hard; (4) hardly.  
(5) hardly; (6) late; (7) lately; (8) lately;  
(9) late; (10) late; (11) mostly; (12) most;  
(13) mostly; (14) mostly; (15) most.

## Some Common Rules

### 24. The Split Infinitive

An **Infinitive**, as we know, consists of **to + verb**. Therefore no **adverb** should be placed between **to** and the **Verb**. If we do so, we shall be splitting the Infinitive. In Grammar it is called **split infinitive fault**. For example, look at this sentence—

“I request you **to kindly grant** me leave.” In this sentence **kindly** has been placed between **to** and **grant**. This is a grammatical fault. The correct form of this sentence would be—‘I request you **kindly to grant** me leave.’

Accordingly, the following sentences are correct—

1. I advise you **to read** the book carefully.
2. I instruct you **to call** the doctor immediately.
3. I direct you **to reach** the office punctually every day.

### 25. Present Perfect and Adverb

In a sentence in the **Present Tense**, no **Adverb** or **Adverbial phrase** suggestive of **Past Tense** should be used. As such the following sentences are **wrong**—

1. I have arrived here **yesterday**.
2. I have joined my duties **last month**.
3. I have passed M. A. **last year**.

The above noted sentences are in the **Present Perfect Tense**, while the **adverbs** connected with them are suggestive of Past Tense. Therefore, they are all **wrong**. The **correct form** of these sentences would be as follows—

1. I arrived here yesterday.
2. I joined my duties last month.
3. I passed M. A. last year.

### 26. Introductory ‘There’

Some sentences begin with **There**. In these sentences **There**, has no significance, nor is it an **Adverb of Place**. In these sentences after **There** comes an **Intransitive verb** or verb **to be**, and after that comes the **Subject**. As—

1. **There** is a book on the table.

2. **There** is a man in the room.
3. **There** came a tiger from the wood.
4. **There** is a function tomorrow.

### 27. Adverb and Preposition

(a) Normally no **Preposition** is used before an **Adverb**. Therefore no **Preposition** should be used before such **Adverbs** as—**Respectfully, humbly, politely, kindly, slowly**, etc. Therefore the following sentences are **wrong**.

1. **With** respectfully I beg to submit.
2. **With** humbly I state.
3. **With** politely I reply as under.

**With** should be removed from all these sentences.

(b) Sometimes some **time-showing words**, such as **morning, evening, day, night, month, year**, etc. have such qualifying words before them as **this, that, next, last, all**, etc. In that case **no Preposition** is used before them. As—

1. He came **last evening**.
2. He left the **next morning**.
3. He worked **all day**.
4. He is coming **this evening**.
5. He did not go **that day**.

(c) But if the **time - showing words** are used **without** the qualifying words (**this, that, next, last**, etc.), proper **Preposition** should be used before them. As—

1. I shall meet you **in the evening**.
2. I don't sleep **in the day**.
3. I shall come **on sunday**.
4. Don't come **in the night**.

(d) **Home** is normally a **Noun**. But it is also used as an **Adverb of Place**. In that case, neither a **Preposition** nor a **relative Adjective** should be used before it. As—

“I am going home.”

This sentence is correct. But we cannot say—  
I am going **to** home. or I am going **my** home.

The following sentences are **correct**—

1. Now we should return **home**.
2. When do you go **home** ?
3. I go **home** by bus.

**Exercise****Correct the following sentences :**

1. You are instructed to not make a noise.
2. I warn you to regularly do your work.
3. I request you to kindly recommend my application.
4. I have applied for this post last year.
5. You have come to the office only yesterday.
6. He has received his Degree at the last convocation.
7. With most respectfully I offer my services to you.
8. On most humbly I bow to your grace.
9. There is a meeting in this evening.
10. He is returning in tomorrow night.
11. I have to go to home before sunset.
12. He did not return on that day.

**Hints**—(1) not to make; (2) regularly to do; (3) kindly to recommend; (4) ‘**applied**’ in place of ‘**have applied**’; (5) ‘**came**’ in place of ‘**have come**’; (6) ‘**received**’ in place of ‘**has received**’; (7) Most respectfully; (8) Most humbly; (9) ‘**this evening**’ without ‘**in**’; (10) ‘**tomorrow night**’ without ‘**in**’; (11) ‘**go home**’ without ‘**to**’; (12) ‘**that day**’ without ‘**on**’.

**Revision Exercise I****Correct the following sentences :**

1. I hear that your mother has been much ill.
2. I have many often wished I could visit America.
3. Is the message much urgent ?
4. He could make not greater mistake than that.
5. There is no the slightest sense in what he says.
6. They arrived not too soon.
7. He is fairly unkind to his subordinates.
8. His performance is fairly unsatisfactory.
9. His performance is rather satisfactory.
10. Her birthday falls lately in November.
11. The mangoes are most unripe.

12. The police officer looked hardly at me.
13. There was hard light when we set out.
14. We hard ever go together.
15. He only retired last month.
16. Please watch carefully his actions.
17. I go at 10 O'clock to my office.
18. I see him rarely these days.
19. He rarely is seen these days.
20. You have always been enough kind to me.

**Hints**—(1) very ill; (2) very often; (3) very urgent; (4) no greater; (5) not the slightest; (6) none too soon; (7) rather unkind; (8) rather unsatisfactory; (9) fairly satisfactory; (10) late in November; (11) mostly unripe; (12) looked hard; (13) hardly light; (14) hardly ever; (15) only last month; (16) his actions carefully; (17) to my office at 10 O'clock; (18) rarely see him; (19) is rarely seen; (20) kind enough.

**Revision Exercise II****Fill in the blanks with suitable adverbs from those given in the brackets—**

1. This drink tastes ..... (**bitter, bitterly**)
2. They received us very ..... at the airport.  
(**warm, warmly**)
3. His story does not sound .....  
(**true, truly**)
4. He has ..... recovered from his illness.  
(**hard, hardly**)
5. .... he has started a new business.  
(**late, lately**)
6. Young men are ..... careless.  
(**most, mostly**)
7. He is ..... serious about his health.  
(**most, mostly**)
8. I find this exercise ..... difficult.  
(**fairly, rather**)
9. His behaviour is ..... too good.  
(**no, none**)
10. This medicine does me ..... good.  
(**no, not**)

11. The examination paper is ..... too easy.  
(not, none)
12. She is not feeling ..... today.  
(very well, much well)
13. She is feeling ..... today.  
(very better, much better)
14. I ..... feared this would happen.  
(rather, never)
15. A horse is ..... like an elephant.  
(none, nothing)

**Hints**—(1) bitter; (2) warmly; (3) true; (4) hardly; (5) lately; (6) mostly; (7) most; (8) rather; (9) none; (10) no; (11) none; (12) very well; (13) much better; (14) rather; (15) nothing.

### **Revision Exercise III**

(a) Write sentences of your own using the following words or expressions preceded by 'rather' or 'fairly'—

Lazy, intelligent, too expensive, sooner, generous person, thoughtless person, beautiful, ugly, a clever girl, a sensible girl.

(b) Write sentences of your own using the following words with 'hard' or 'hardly', 'late' or 'lately', 'most' or 'mostly'—

Study, work, drink, believe, arrive, marriage, new adventure, peasants, labour, indecent.

(c) Use the following adverbs in sentences of your own—

Sooner, none, often, enough, too, even, very much, too much, much too, only too, since, ever since, little, seldom, so far, upto now, just.