

Adverbs of Manner & Time

Adverbs are used to describe actions (e.g. “He will entertain us later” – where ‘later’ is the adverb and ‘entertain’ is the verb), but they are used a lot to give additional ‘flavour’ to other adverbs and to adjectives.

Adverbs of Manner

These are nearly always made by adding “ly” after the adjective. However, when an adjective already ends in ‘y’, we have to change the ‘y’ to an ‘i’ before adding the ‘ly’ suffix. You mustn’t put the adverb between the verb and its object. Only use with verbs ... which the adverb follows.

Adverb of Manner	Example Sentence
angrily	He stamped his feet <i>angrily</i> .
beautifully	The picture was <i>beautifully</i> drawn.
carefully	We’re playing <i>carefully</i> with this toy.
cautiously	The path was dark so he walked very <i>cautiously</i> .
cheerfully	He faced death <i>cheerfully</i> .
crossly	He reacted very <i>crossly</i> .
cruelly	The animal had been <i>cruelly</i> treated.
defiantly	The child shouted at his mother <i>defiantly</i> .
happily	They <i>happily</i> ate the food.
loudly	‘What?’ he said <i>loudly</i> .
lovingly	The cake was <i>lovingly</i> made.
miserably	The cat <i>howled</i> miserably.
noisily	The monkeys ate their food extremely <i>noisily</i> .
patiently	They waited <i>patiently</i> until 4.30pm.
sadly	She looked up <i>sadly</i> .
silently	I told them to read <i>silently</i> , but James kept whispering <i>audibly</i> .
softly	She whispered <i>softly</i> .
well	He writes <i>well</i> .

Adverbs of Time

Adverbs of time tell us **when** an action happened, but also for **how long**, and **how often**. Adverbs of time almost always *go with a verb*. Occasionally they go with an adverb. They are extremely common in English. Adverbs of time have standard positions in a sentence depending on what the adverb of time is telling us. Except at the end of the page, all these adverbs are only applied to verbs.

Adverbs that tell us **when** are usually placed at the end of the sentence. They can also be used at the start of a sentence for emphasis.

- Goldilocks went to the Bears' house *yesterday*.
- I'm going to tidy my room *tomorrow*.
- *Tomorrow*, I'm going to tidy my room but *today* I'm going to be lazy.
- I will call you *later*.
- I have to leave *now*.
- I've helped you as much as I can, but *now* I must leave
- I saw that movie *last year*.

Adverbs that tell us for **how long** are usually phrases and are also usually placed at the end of the sentence.

- The 3 little pigs stayed in the brick house *all day*.
- My mother lived in France *for a year*.
- I've lived in Nottingham *since 2022*.

Adverbs that tell us **how often** express the **frequency** of an action. They are usually placed before the main verb but after auxiliary verbs (such as *be, have, may, & must*). The only exception is when the main verb is "to be", in which case the adverb goes after the main verb.

- I *often* eat vegetarian food.
- He *never* drinks milk.
- You must *always* fasten your seat belt.
- I am *seldom* late. [adverb after 'I am']
- He *rarely* tells the truth.
- This magazine is published *monthly*. [adverb after 'This magazine is']

Some adverbs that express **frequency** [e.g. Occasionally, Sometimes, Generally, Normally, Often, Usually], can also be placed at the beginning of the sentence in order to make the impact of the adverb a bit stronger.

- *Usually*, I arrive by 9am.

The sequence of frequency adverbs is (approximately!) as follows:

None of the time							All the time time						
never	hardly ever	rarely	seldom	occasionally	sometimes	often	frequently	generally	normally	usually	invariably	always	

'regularly' indicates occurrences at intervals that are the same, so 'regularly' could mean 'frequently' (i.e. the intervals between events are small) or it could mean 'occasionally' (i.e. the intervals between events are large)

Here are two examples of adverbs of time, *expressing frequency*, used with other adverbs.

- After the football match they return, *usually* quickly [adverb '*usually*' describes adverb '*quickly*']
- He is *hardly ever* on time [adverb '*hardly ever*' describes adverb '*on time*']