

Adverbs of Place & Possibility

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

Adverbs of Place

These adverbs describe the place where an action happened. They usually go after the main verb or after the clause that they modify. Many can be placed at the start of a sentence to provide emphasis. They don’t modify adjectives or adverbs.

Adverb of Place	Example Sentence
above	You will find books about cricket on the shelf <i>above</i> your head
anywhere	<i>Anywhere</i> you can go, I can go further
backward (back)	Stand <i>back</i> please, the doctor needs to get past
behind	The apple tree is <i>behind</i> the house
below	I am the boss. He is <i>below</i> me
downward (down)	She looked <i>downward</i> .
everywhere	We looked <i>everywhere</i> , but we couldn’t find it
forward	Please move your chair <i>forward</i> half a metre
here	<i>Here</i> I am. Were you looking for me?
in	The cat is <i>in</i> his basket
inside	<i>Inside</i> the box I found £100
left	Turn <i>left</i> at the next roundabout
near	You must have taken the wrong road – that’s nowhere <i>near</i> here.
outside	We keep the dog in a kennel <i>outside</i>
over	The sports centre is <i>over</i> the road. No, not that building ... <i>over there!</i>
right	Turn <i>right here</i>
sideways	She looked <i>sideways</i> at John
there	We will meet <i>under</i> the clock. Be <i>there</i> at 10am
underneath (under)	We will meet <i>under</i> the clock. Be <i>there</i> at 10am
upward (up)	It’s bed time. <i>Up</i> you go now, or you’ll be in trouble

Adverbs of Possibility

If the adverb is describing a verb then the adverb almost always come before the verb. In the following table the adverbs are listed from “most possible” at the top to “least possible” at the bottom.

Adverb of Possibility	Example Sentence (verbs are underlined)
undoubtedly	England will <i>undoubtedly</i> <u>lose</u> their next rugby match. (v)
certainly	Her dress is <i>certainly</i> very red (aj)
definitely	You will <i>definitely</i> not <u>regret</u> your decision (v)
surely	<i>Surely</i> he didn't <u>say</u> that, did he? (v)
clearly	<i>Clearly</i> , it's too late to go to now. All the bargains will have gone. (v)
obviously	Has she finished painting the door? <i>Obviously</i> not! (aj)
likely	She is <i>likely</i> to <u>miss</u> her train if the taxi doesn't come very soon. (v)
probably	This coat will <i>probably</i> <u>fit</u> you (v)
maybe	<i>Maybe</i> the King will <u>come</u> to our Christmas party. <i>Maybe</i> not! (v)
perhaps	<i>Perhaps</i> I <u>lost</u> it at work (v)
possibly	I could <i>possibly</i> <u>come</u> for dinner next month (v)
conceivably	<i>Conceivably</i> , Andrew could <u>learn</u> Cantonese next month (v)