ADVERBS

- changeable parts of speech (comparison)
- open class

Functions of Adverbs

- modifiers of verbs or clauses
- modifiers of adjectives or other adverbs or adverbial phrases (very, well, quickly).
- they typically express relations of place, time, manner, attendant circumstance, degree, cause, inference, result, condition, exception, concession, purpose, or means.

Form of Adverbs

- single words / adverbial phrases
- usually formed from adjectives by means of the ending –ly (sometimes –ably)
- some adverbs have the same form and pronunciation as other parts of speech (adjectives – fast, pretty, early, straight; prepositions – up, about, around)
- some adverbs have two forms – one which is the same as that of the adjective and the other ending in –ly: right/rightly, short/shortly, high/highly, pretty/prettily

Kinds of Adverbs

- manner (boldly, dangerously, fast, hard, quickly, usually, well )
- place (by, behind, here, left, near, over, there, upstairs)
- time (next, now, punctually, soon, tomorrow, )
- frequency (always, frequently, never, occasionally, once, repeatedly)
- degree (fairly, hardly, pretty, quite, too, very)
- sentence (actually, , admittely, definitely, luckily, surely)
- interrogative (why? when? where?)
- relative (why, when, where )

NOTE: Some adverbs fall into more than one categories, depending on the context and on their position within the sentence, e.g.:
- around (place – He was arrested while sneaking around.
  intensifier (time) – The policeman asked him where he was around ten.)

- aside (place – The fire brigade pulled the wrecked car aside.
  quantity – The suspect had a clean record aside from some traffic offenses.)
  etc.
Comparison of adverbs

**COMPARABLE ADVERBS**
- regular
- irregular
- short
- long

**INCOMPARABLE ADVERBS**
(back, chiefly, mostly, nearly, pretty, shortly...)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGULAR COMPARISON</th>
<th>IRREGULAR COMPARISON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHORT (monosyllabic adverbs + hard and early)</td>
<td>LONG (adverbs with two or more syllables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fast – faster – fastest</td>
<td>recently – more recently – most recently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>close – closer – closest</td>
<td>readily – more readily – most readily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>long – longer – longest</td>
<td>cordially – more cordially – most cordially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard – harder – hardest</td>
<td>badly – worse – worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early – earlier – earliest</td>
<td>far – farther – farthest (distance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>far – further – furthest (general)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>little – less – least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>much – more – most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>well – better – best</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use of Comparative Forms

as / so … as:  *He spoke as loudly as he could.*
*The car thief was teasing the police so much as he dared.*

*the + comparative … the + comparative:  The longer you run the harder you’ll be punished.*

Use of Superlative

- usually in the construction of + noun:  *He drove fastest of them all.*

**NOTE:** In such constructions, the nominal part following the superlative can be omitted:
*He drove fastest.*

Position of Adverbs

**Adverbs of manner (foolishly, hard, kindly, nice, stupidly, …)**
- follow the verb  *He spoke clearly.*
- or the object if there is one  *He pulled the gun unexpectedly.*

**NOTES:**
- the adverb can not be put between the verb and the object
- if the object contains many words, the adverb should be put before the verb
- with prepositional objects, the adverb can be put either before the preposition or after the object
- the adverb is considered to modify the verb of the phrase/clause which it follows
- sometimes the position of the adverbia changes the meaning of the sentence, e.g.:
*He cunningly decided to trick his partner.*  /  *He decided to trick his partner cunningly.*
- **Adverbs of Place** (anywhere, away, here, there, upward(s), …)

- follow the verb
- if there is an object (incl. prepositional), then they follow the object
- here and there can be used in initial position followed by be/come/go + noun subject or by a pronominal subject + be/come/go.

  Here/There goes our prime suspect.   BUT:  Here he comes.  There she goes.

- away, down, up, over, off, out, round, etc. can be followed by verb of motion + subject

  Off sails the ship.  Up moves the elevator.  Round and round ran the athletes.

  **BUT:**  Off it sails.  Up it moves.  Round and round they ran.

- in written English adverb phrases introduced by prepositions can be used in front of verbs of position and motion (and sometimes in front of other verbs):

  In the courtroom sat the accused and his lawyer.
  From the gallows hung the assassin’s dead body.
  Down the hall walked the doomed men.

- most such constructions can be replaced by a construction participle + be

  Sitting in the courtroom were the accused and his lawyer.
  Hanging from the gallows was the assassin’s dead body.
  Walking down the hall were the doomed men.*

  *This could actually be used only if the action were repeated or if it took a long time.

- **Adverbs of Time** (afterwards, before, ever, lately, never, soon, tomorrow, yet, …)

- occupy either the initial or final position in the clause (end position is usual with imperatives and with phrases with till)

  Eventually, the judge sentenced the accused. / The judge sentenced the accused eventually.
  The reading of the verdict has been postponed till tomorrow.

- (ever) since are used with perfect tenses

  He has not slept a second since his arrest.

- yet follows the verb / verb + object

  He hasn’t spoken yet. / He hasn’t said a word yet.

- still follows the verb be but is put in front of other verbs

  Most members of the “Manson family” are still in prison.
  In spite of hard evidence, the accused still denied his guilt.

- just as an adverb of time* is used with compound tenses

  He has just opened the door.
  She was just picking up the phone.

  * It can also be used as adverb of degree

  He just wanted some peace

- **Adverbs of Frequency** (always, frequently, often, usually, ever, hardly ever, …)

- follow the verb be in simple tenses

  He is always in trouble.
- come before simple tenses of all other verbs
  *They constantly disobey the regulations.*

- in compound tenses follow the first auxiliary verb
  *This lawyer has scarcely ever lost a case.*

but in questions follow the auxiliary verb + subject
*Have you ever been arrested?*

**Adverbs of Degree (absolutely, barely, completely, enough, quite, entirely, thoroughly, …)**

- modify adjectives or other adverbs
  *This is quite right. / He behaved absolutely foolishly.*

- **enough** follows the adjective or adverb it modifies
  *This answer was not good enough. / He didn’t answer fast enough.*

- some of the degree adverbs can also modify verbs (almost, hardly, enough, just, (a) little, much, nearly, quite, rather, really, scarcely)
  *He nearly drowned.*

- **just** as a qualifier precedes the word(s) it refers to
  *I had just enough money for one phone call.*
  *I just had enough money for one phone call.*
  *I had enough money for just one phone call.*
  *etc.*

**Order of Adverbs (Adverb Phrases) of Manner, Place and Time in the Same Sentence**

- manner before place (usually)
  *He sat proudly on the throne.*

  **BUT:** *away, back, down, forward, home, in, off, on, out, round and up* are usually put in
  *front of adverbials of manner*
  *She turned back angrily.*

- time follows manner and place
  *The judge had a very busy day today.*

  Or occupies the initial position
  *Today the judge had a very busy day.*

**Sentence Adverbs (actually, apparently, certainly, clearly, obviously, probably, surely)**

- modify the whole sentence/clause and express the speakers opinion/attitude

  *She is obviously intelligent. /They certainly deserved the sentence. / Apparently he was right.*
Explain whether the final word of the sentence is an adjective, or an adverb:

1. The sun burnt the grass quickly.  
2. It burnt the grass black.  
3. He drove his employees hard.  
4. He drove some of them mad.  
5. I find this very unlikely.  
6. We found the people friendly.  
7. This made everyone late.  
8. I have made his acquaintance lately.  
9. The doctor soon made the patient well.  
10. We can make breakfast early.  
11. What made my bed so hard?  
12. He shall leave the house early.  
13. We shall leave the room empty.  
14. I can paint your hall pink.  
15. I can paint this wall fast.  
17. Pull the rope tight.  
18. He turned the corner well.  
19. The heat turned the milk sour.  
20. You must wipe the windscreen clean.  
21. The judge sentenced the accused mildly.  
22. The court investigations ought to be fast.  
23. She made her flat vacant.  
24. They left the courtroom angrily.  
25. Her visits to her brother in prison were frequent.  
26. As always, my attorney was late.  
27. He spoke to the gathered crowd loudly.
28. I wonder why the defendant laughing secretly.
29. The food and water we had left was scarce.
30. Public attitude about joining the European Union has changed significantly.
Explain whether the final word of the sentence is an adjective, or an adverb:

31. The sun burnt the grass quickly. Adv
32. It burnt the grass black.
33. He drove his employees hard.
34. He drove some of them mad.
35. I find this very unlikely. Adv
36. We found the people friendly.
37. This made everyone late.
38. I have made his acquaintance lately. Adv
39. The doctor soon made the patient well.
40. We can make breakfast early. Adv
41. What made my bed so hard?
42. He shall leave the house early. Adv
43. We shall leave the room empty.
44. I can paint your hall pink.
45. I can paint this wall fast. Adv
46. Pull the rope hard. Adv
47. Pull the rope tight.
48. He turned the corner well. Adv
49. The heat turned the milk sour.
50. You must wipe the windscreen clean.
51. The judge sentenced the accused mildly. Adv
52. The court investigations ought to be fast.
53. She made her flat vacant.
54. They left the courtroom angrily. Adv
55. Her visits to her brother in prison were frequent.
56. As always, my attorney was late.
57. He spoke to the gathered crowd loudly. Adv
58. I wonder why the defendant laughing secretly.  Adv
59. The food and water we had left was scarce.
60. Public attitude about joining the European Union has changed significantly.  Adv
In each of the sentences, there are at least two possible positions for the adverb given.

1. Write each sentence twice, placing the adverb so as to suggest two distinctly different meanings.

2. Explain or paraphrase the sentences to show the differences in their meanings

1. He expresses his thanks. (naturally)
2. The teacher thought the student was not intelligent. (obviously)
3. There were few passengers on the bus on weekdays. (only)
4. The speaker had not argued his case at all. (clearly)
5. Some club members were horrified at the suggestion of small changes. (even)
6. I remember his being able to play football. (well)
7. The rescue party managed to take ten of the crew off the ship before it sank. (just)
8. I don’t want to be obliged to him by asking him a favor. (particularly)
9. I think he will find he has been rash in investing his money in those shares. (rather)
10. Frank has decided to spend a few days in Austria on his way to Switzerland. (also)
11. When I mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work. (promptly)
12. He appreciated that my idea was a good one, but wasn’t willing to lend me his support. (quite)
13. Do you think you’ll have enough money at the end of the month to take a short holiday? (still)
14. I should ask him what he meant by his statement. (personally)
15. Have you made up your mind about what you want to do when you leave school? (really)
16. He had the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong. (at least)
17. He will explain quite clearly what he intends to do. (in future)
18. The student overheard the teacher saying that his last essay was better.
   (distinctly)
19. A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn’t run on
   Sundays because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
   (normally)
20. As the solicitor said, the money had been divided among the brothers and
    sisters of the childless dead man. (rightly)
In each of the sentences, there are at least two possible positions for the adverb given.

1. Write each sentence twice, placing the adverb so as to suggest two distinctly different meanings.
2. Explain or paraphrase the sentences to show the differences in their meanings.

21. a) He naturally expresses his thanks.
   b) He expresses his thanks naturally.
22. a) The teacher obviously thought the student was not intelligent.
    b) The teacher thought the student was obviously not intelligent.
    c) Obviously, the teacher thought the student was not intelligent.
23. a) There were only few passengers on the bus on weekdays.
    b) There were few passengers on the bus only on weekdays.
    c) There were few passengers on the bus on weekdays only.
24. a) The speaker had not argued his case clearly at all.
    b) The speaker had not argued his case at all clearly.
25. a) Some club members were horrified even at the suggestion of small changes.
    b) Some club members were horrified at the suggestion of even small changes.
    c) Even some club members were horrified at the suggestion of small changes.
26. a) I remember his being able to play football well.
    b) I remember well his being able to play football.
27. a) The rescue party just managed to take ten of the crew off the ship before it sank.
    b) The rescue party managed to take ten of the crew off the ship just before it sank.
    c) The rescue party managed to take just ten of the crew off the ship before it sank.
28. a) I particularly don’t want to be obliged to him by asking him a favor.
    b) I don’t want to be obliged to him particularly by asking him a favor.
    c) I don’t want to be particularly obliged to him by asking him a favor.
29. a) I rather think he will find he has been rash in investing his money in those shares.
    b) I think he will find he has been rather rash in investing his money in those shares.
    c) I think he will find he has been rash in rather investing his money in those shares.
30. a) Frank has also decided to spend a few days in Austria on his way to Switzerland.
   b) Frank has decided to also spend a few days in Austria on his way to Switzerland.
   c) Frank has decided to spend a few days in Austria also on his way to Switzerland.
31. a) When I mentioned the money involved, he promptly undertook to do the work.
   b) When I mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work promptly.
   c) When I promptly mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work.
   d) Promptly, When I mentioned the money involved, he undertook to do the work.
32. a) He appreciated that my idea was quite a good one, but wasn’t willing to lend me his support.
   b) He appreciated that my idea was a good one, but wasn’t quite willing to lend me his support.
33. a) Do you still think you’ll have enough money at the end of the month to take a short holiday?
   b) Do you think you’ll still have enough money at the end of the month to take a short holiday?
   c) Do you think you’ll have enough money at the end of the month to still take a short holiday?
34. a) I should ask him personally what he meant by his statement.
   b) I should ask him what he personally meant by his statement.
   c) I personally should ask him what he meant by his statement.
35. a) Have you really made up your mind about what you want to do when you leave school?
   b) Have you made up your mind about what you really want to do when you leave school?
36. a) He at least had the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong.
   b) He had at least the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong.
   c) He had the grace to at least admit that he was partly in the wrong.
   d) He had the grace to admit that he was at least partly in the wrong.
   e) At least, he had the grace to admit that he was partly in the wrong.
37. a) In the future, he will explain quite clearly what he intends to do.
   b) He will explain quite clearly what he intends to do in the future.
   c) He will explain quite clearly in the future what he intends to do.
38. a) The student **distinctly** overheard the teacher saying that his last essay was better.
   b) The student overheard the teacher **distinctly** saying that his last essay was better.
   c) The student overheard the teacher saying that his last essay was **distinctly** better.
39. a) A spokesman for the bus company **normally** pointed out that buses couldn’t run on Sundays
   because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
   b) A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn’t **normally** run on Sundays
   because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
   c) A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn’t run **normally** on Sundays
   because of the unwillingness of the staff to work overtime.
   d) A spokesman for the bus company pointed out that buses couldn’t run on Sundays
   because of the unwillingness of the staff to **normally** work overtime.
40. a) As the solicitor **rightly** said, the money had been divided among the brothers and sisters of
   the childless dead man.
   b) As the solicitor said, the money had been **rightly** divided among the brothers and sisters of
   the childless dead man.
Use one of the following Intensifiers to finish the sentences.
Do not use any of the intensifiers twice.

absolutely, deeply, far, keenly, actually, definitely, fully, totally, badly, entirely,
well, greatly, utterly, bitterly, exceedingly, heartily, violently, completely,
extremely, highly

1. It was really _________________kind of you to help us.
2. I am _________________ grateful to you.
3. We all feel _________________ more certain of our position now.
4. The clerk’s story was _________________ exaggerated.
5. Did you _________________ hear him threaten the girl?
6. I am sure she must have been _________________ shaken.
7. I am _________________ amazed to hear you say that.
8. You will _________________ regret this one day.
9. We were all _________________ moved by his story.
10. The result of the elections is now _________________ confirmed.
11. The situation has _________________ changed.
12. We are not _________________ satisfied with the result.
13. Mr. Chairman, I _________________ support the last speaker’s remarks.
14. We _________________ agree with your proposal.
15. SIEMENS is _________________ interested in his work.
16. We need technicians who are _________________ trained.
17. All the guests were ______________ ill that night.

18. I can ______________ imagine how the poor hostess felt.

19. We ______________ reject your accusations against us.

20. I can see what you mean. I am not ______________ blind.
Use one of the following Intensifiers to finish the sentences.
Do not use any of the intensifiers twice.

absolutely, deeply, far, keenly, actually, definitely, fully, totally, badly, entirely,
well, greatly, utterly, bitterly, exceedingly, heartily, violently, completely,
extremely, highly

1. It was really **extremely** kind of you to help us.
2. I am **heartily** grateful to you.
3. We all feel **far** more certain of our position now.
4. The clerk’s story was **exceedingly** exaggerated.
5. Did you **actually** hear him threaten the girl?
6. I am sure she must have been **completely** shaken.
7. I am **greatly** amazed to hear you say that.
8. You will **bitterly** regret this one day.
9. We were all **deeply** moved by his story.
10. The result of the elections is now **definitely** confirmed.
11. The situation has **violently** changed.
12. We are not **fully** satisfied with the result.
13. Mr. Chairman, I **keenly** support the last speaker’s remarks.
14. We **entirely** agree with your proposal.
15. SIEMENS is **absolutely** interested in his work.
16. We need technicians who are **highly** trained.
17. All the guests were **badly** ill that night.

18. I can **well** imagine how the poor hostess felt.

19. We **utterly** reject your accusations against us.

20. I can see what you mean. I am not **totally** blind.