**Writing Centre**

**ADVERBS**

An adverb can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a phrase, or a clause. An adverb indicates manner, time, place, cause, or degree and answers questions such as "how," "when," "where," and "how much.”

While some adverbs can be identified by their characteristic "ly" suffix, most of them must be identified by untangling the grammatical relationships within the sentence or clause as a whole. Unlike an adjective, an adverb can be found in various places within the sentence.

**The Five Types of Adverbs**

1. **Adverbs of Manner:** Adverbs of manner provide information on how someone does something.  
   **Example:** Mary drives very **carefully.**
2. **Adverbs of Time:** Adverbs of time provide information on when something happens.

**Example:** We'll let you know our decision **next week.**

1. **Adverbs of Frequency:** Adverbs of frequency provide information on how often something happens.

**Example:** They **usually** get to work at nine o'clock.

1. **Adverbs of Degree:** Adverbs of degree provide information concerning how much of something is done.

**Example:** They like playing hockey **a lot.**

1. **Adverbs of Comment:** Adverbs of comment provide a comment, or opinion about a situation.

**Example:****Fortunately**, there was enough food for everyone.

**Adverb Formation**

**Adverbs are usually formed by adding '-ly' to an adjective.**

**Examples:** quiet – quietly; careful – carefully; careless - carelessly

**Adjectives ending in '-le' change to '-ly'.**

**Examples:** possible – possibly; probable – probably; incredible - incredibly

**Adjectives ending in '-y' change to '-ily'.**

**Examples:** lucky – luckily; happy – happily; angry - angrily

**Adjectives ending in '-ic' change to '-ically'.**

**Examples:** basic – basically; ironic – ironically; scientific – scientifically.

**Adverb Sentence Placement**

1. **Adverbs of Manner:** Adverbs of manner are placed **after** the verb or entire expression (at the end of the sentence).

**Example:** Their teacher speaks **quickly.**

1. **Adverbs of Time:** Adverbs of time are placed **after** the verb or entire expression (at the end of the sentence).

**Example:** She visited her family **last year.**

1. **Adverbs of Frequency:** Adverbs of frequency are placed **before** the main verb (not the auxiliary verb).

**Example:** She **often** goes to bed late. Do you **sometimes** get up early?

1. **Adverbs of Degree:** Adverbs of degree are placed **after** the verb or entire expression (at the end of the sentence).

**Example:** She'll attend the meeting **as well.**

1. **Adverbs of Comment:** Adverbs of comment are placed **at the beginning** of a sentence.

**Example:** **Luckily**, I was able to come to the presentation*.*

**\*\*Important Exceptions to Adverb Placement\*\***

Some adverbs are placed at the beginning of a sentence to provide more emphasis.

**Example:** Now you tell me you can't come!

Adverbs of frequency are placed after the verb 'to be' when used as the main verb of the sentence.

**Example:** Jack is often late for work.

Some adverbs of frequency (sometimes, usually, normally) are also placed at the beginning of the sentence for emphasis.

**Example:** Sometimes I visit my friends in London.

**Source:**

[writingcentre.uottawa.ca](http://www.writingcentre.uottawa.ca/hypergrammar/adverbs.html)

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