

An **adverb** is a word which modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective or an adverb. For example

Rama runs quickly.

Govinda reads quite clearly.

Kinds of Adverb

(a) According to meaning

1) **Adverbs of Time** : They are the adverbs which tell us when an action takes place. For example,
I shall meet you tomorrow.

Rule : Time adverbs cannot be used in the present perfect, instead the past indefinite is used for them.

Incorrect : I have seen a 3D movie last night.

Correct : I saw a 3D movie last night.

2) **Adverbs of Place** : They are the adverbs which tell us where an action takes place. For example,

He left his bag there.

3) **Adverbs of Manner** : They are the adverbs which tell us how an action takes place or in what manner. For example, Gautam Buddha left his family stealthily.

4) **Adverbs of Frequency** : They are the adverbs which tell us how often an action takes place. For example, The Delhi Police is always with you .

5) **Adverbs of Degree or Quantity** : They are the adverbs which tell us how much or in what degree or to what extent. For example,

I have pleaded enough and now I give up.

Rule : The adverb "so" as an adverb of degree must not be used absolutely.

Incorrect : He is so rich.

Correct : He is very rich.

Rule : That "should not be used instead of " so "as an adverb".

Incorrect : He went only that far.

Correct : He went only so far.

Rule : The adverb "too" should not be used instead of "very" or "much" and vice versa.

Incorrect : She is too intelligent.

Correct : she is very intelligent.

Rule : Much is used with past participles used as adjectives not with present participles.

Incorrect : The match became much interesting.

Correct : The match became very interesting.

Rule : Adverb of degree comes just before the adjective it qualifies.

Incorrect : He too is weak to run.

Correct : He is too weak to run.

They are so honest that they cannot tell a lie.

6) **Adverbs of Affirmation and Negation** : They are the adverbs which tell us whether an action is done or not. For example,
He has not left the place.

7) **Adverbs of Reason** : They are the adverbs which tell us why an action takes place. For example,

She therefore decided to be a rich woman.

(b) According to use

1) **Simple Adverb** : It only modifies some words (verb, adjective or an adverb). All the above examples belong to this category.

2) **Interrogative Adverb** : It not only modifies some words but also

Rule : Some adverbs have two forms, the form ending in -ly and the form which is the same as adjective. For example, loud, quick, high, hard, near, late, pretty.

Incorrect: He fought hardly for the No. 1 spot.

Correct: He fought hard for the No. 1 spot.

Similarly, Incorrect: It would hard rain today.

Correct : It would hardly rain today.

Comparison of adverbs :

Rule : If the adverb is of one syllable, the comparative is formed by adding -er and the superlative by adding -est to the positive.

Incorrect : The hare ran more fast than the dog.

Correct : The hare ran faster than the dog.

Rule : Adverbs ending in -ly form the comparative by adding more and the superlative by adding most.

Incorrect : The petrol price hike issue has been debated hotter than the urea scam.

Correct : The petrol price hike issue has been debated more hotly than the urea scam.

Position of adverbs :

Rule : Adverbs of manner, place and time are generally placed after the verb or after the object if there is one.

Incorrect: He wrote last year a book.

Correct: He wrote a book last year.

Rule : When there are two or more adverbs after a verb (and its object), the normal order is; adverb of manner, adverb of place, adverb of time.

Incorrect: I read the proof yesterday meticulously at home.

Correct: I read the proof meticulously at home yesterday.

Rule : Adverbs of frequency and most of the adverbs of quantity are

i) normally put between the subject and the verb if the verb consists of only one word;

ii) put after the first word if there is more than one word in the verb;

iii) put after the verb if the verb is am/are/is/was/were;

Some more rules :

Rule : Two negatives should not be used in the same sentence unless we wish to make an affirmation.

Incorrect: she did not despise none of her lovers.

Correct: She did not despise any of her lovers.

Rule : Ever should not be used for never.

Incorrect: She seldom or ever has sweet talks with her son.

Correct: She seldom or never has sweet talks with her son.

Rule : Else should be followed by but.

Incorrect: It is nothing else than fatigue.

Correct: It is nothing else but fatigue.

Rule : Never should not be used for not.

Incorrect: She met her friend after a long time and her friend never recognised her.

Correct: She met her friend after a long time and her friend did not recognise her.

Exercise :

Directions: Find out the error in each of the following sentences, if any. If there is no error, the answer is 'd'.

1. She behaved in a cowardly manner (a) before the headmaster (b) and hesitated to do the work. (c) No error (d)

2. The girl refused (a) not to (b) return the articles. (c) No error (d)

3. The real important thing (a) of our life is our livelihood (b) which discriminates us from animals. (c) No error (d)

4. She is too much surprised to know that one of the boys she met after her last

10. We were very much (a) carefully in our approach (b) and hence we would complete the complicated task. (c) No error (d)

Answers.

1. d; No error
2. b; Omit the word "not"
3. a; Replace "real" with "really"
4. a; Replace "too much" with "very"
5. c; Replace "fluently French" with "French fluently"
6. c; Replace "whole-hearted" with "whole-heartedly"
7. c; Replace "nice" with "nicely"
8. a; Replace "fastly" with "fast"
9. b; Replace "hardly" with "hard"
10. b; Replace "carefully" with "careful"

formation. This is not an official one.