

Writing Center

Adverbs

Definition: describes, limits or modifies verbs, adjectives or other adverbs.

Kinds of Adverbs

Frequency (how often?): always, never, seldom, ever

Time and relative time (when?): now, then, on May 7, yesterday, at 10 a.m., yet, recently, soon

Place (where?): here, there, in Chicago, at home

Manner (how?): easily, with difficulty, by plane, carefully, by hand, well, not

Positions of Adverbs in Sentences

Frequency:

Usually middle position (before the main verb, but after the verb *to be*): hardly, ever, always, almost always, never, usually, often

EXAMPLES:

He *always* studies his homework.

He *never* drives his new car.

He is *often* hungry.

They were *usually* very friendly.

Initial or middle position: sometimes, occasionally, frequently

EXAMPLE;

Sometimes they study their homework.

Middle or final position: twice, once, once a day, once a month, every day, every month, all the time, from time to time

EXAMPLES:

They drove their new car *twice*.

They were friendly *all the time*.

Time:

Definite time before or after the main clause.

EXAMPLE:

They arrived at 10 *p.m.*

Yesterday Pat bought a new car.

Relative time—middle position: just, already, still, lately, recently, soon

Relative time—final position: yet

EXAMPLES:

They *just* arrived.

Kelly *still* drives an old car.

They haven't finished yet.

Place:

Position before or after the main clause

EXAMPLE:

We moved to a *new house*.

In Chicago, they were very comfortable.

Manner:

Position at end of clause or middle of clause: for emphasis, place, at beginning

EXAMPLES;

Pat cleaned the room *carefully*.

Pat *carefully* cleaned the room.

Carefully, Pat cleaned the room.

Well:

Always place *well* in the final position.

EXAMPLE

Pat cleaned the room well.

SPECIAL NOTES:

When you have several adverbs of time or place in one clause, arrange them so that the specific one comes before the general ones.

EXAMPLE:

Chris arrived at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 5, 1981.

If you have many adverbs in one sentence, place time adverbs at the beginning and put manner and place (in that order) at the end. Or, put all the end in this order: Manner, place, time.

EXAMPLES;

On Mondays, they *usually* send flowers *cheerfully* to their mother.

They *usually* send flowers *cheerfully* to their mother on Mondays.

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