

Adverbs

An adverb is a word which describes or gives more information about a verb, adjective, adverb or phrase.

Adverbs usually describe **how** (he worked ambitiously), **why** (to boost his grades), **when** (yesterday), **where** (at school), **or to what extent** (for many hours).

Adverbs are used to modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

1. Mary sings *beautifully*. (*How does Mary sing? Modifies the verb "sings".*)
2. David is *extremely* clever. (*How clever is David? Modifies the adjective "clever".*)
3. This car goes *incredibly* fast. (*How fast does the car go? Modifies the adverb "fast".*)

Adjectives that are also adverbs

Adverbs are frequently formed from adjectives by adding "-ly" to the adjective. For example, "beautifully" from "beautiful", "quickly" from "quick", etc.

However, some adjectives retain their form when used as an adverb.

Adjective	Adverb
The journey was fast and enjoyable.	He was driving too fast .
Next week is cup final.	Wondering what would happen next .
The back pocket of his jeans was picked.	Sit back and relax.
The plants will grow into little bushes.	I was always a little afraid of her.
Her daughter is seriously ill .	Poor grammar may bode ill for CAT.
The team hoped for better weather.	He could do better if he tried.
How to obtain the best results from your machine.	Jokes are best avoided in essays.
We ate an early lunch.	I was planning to finish work early today.
He was the only child of his parents.	There are only a limited number of tickets available.
There was just enough room for two cars	Before he was old enough to shave, he bought an electric shaver.
I did not get much sleep.	Did it hurt much ?
It would be some time before she was completely well .	The whole team played well .
He had not travelled far .	He bowled from the far end.
A long straight road.	He gazed straight at her.
The queue for tickets was long .	How long have you been working here?

When "-ly" makes a difference

Some adverbs have two forms, the form ending in "-ly" and the form which is the same as adjective.

For example: loud, high, hard, near, late, pretty, low, deep, slow, fair, free, most, wrong, direct, short, close, cheap etc.

But in some cases, the meaning changes when "-ly" is attached to the adjective.

On the other hand, some words that do end in "-ly" are not adverbs but adjectives.

Examples: friendly, womanly, silly, frilly, courtly, saintly, nightly, daily.



Really!!

Let us see how the addition of “-ly” makes a difference.

Adjective	Adverb
Some children are particularly quick learners.	You can make money quickly in Mumbai.
They were kept awake by loud music.	Speak loudly please.
The top of a high mountain may not be visible from the ground.	The sculpture stood about five feet high . He was highly regarded by his colleagues.
He loves sleeping on a hard mattress.	They work hard at B-schools. The party had hardly started when the police arrived.
The conflict is unlikely to be resolved in the near future.	A bomb exploding somewhere near caused a stampede. A rise of nearly 25 percent worried many.
She was half an hour late for her lunch appointment.	It happened late in 1984. She hasn't been looking too well lately
A pretty little girl with an engaging grin caught his fancy.	He looked pretty fit for his age. She was prettily dressed.
I hope we are doing the right thing.	Nothing is going right for me this season. We tasted the delicious cuisine for which the country was rightly famous.
The sun was low in the sky.	He was lying low for most of the time.
He maintains a rather lowly appearance	
The lake was deep and cold.	Travelling deep into the countryside, he met many people.
	The inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.
He used a slow dot-matrix printer.	It was a slow-moving car. Walk slowly .
He believes he has a fair chance of success.	No one could say he played fair . The tea is fairly hot.
Some countries do not have a free Press.	Ladies were admitted free . You may speak freely .
Snakes are found in most countries.	The most important event of my life I go there mostly in the evenings.
This is the wrong answer.	You got me all wrong . Wrongly written spellings put me off badly.
There is no direct flight.	They seem reluctant to deal with me direct . The houses were directly opposite.
The bed was too short for the two of us.	He pitched the ball short . The flight was hijacked shortly after takeoff.
A cheap and reliable solution.	He sells his goods cheap . The house was cheaply sold out.
The hotel is close to the sea.	They stood close to the door. The team is closely held together.

Adjectives with no direct adverbs

Many adjectives have no direct adverbs. For example, **friendly** will have to be written as “in a friendly way” or “in a friendly manner” to serve as an adverb.

The following is a list of adjectives, only some of which may be used as adverbs, as well.

Beastly, beggarly, bodily, bubbly, burly, burly, chilly, comely, comely, costly, courtly, crumbly, cuddly, daily, dastardly, deadly, deathly, disorderly, early, earthly, earthly, easterly, elderly, fatherly, fleshly, fly, fortnightly, friendly, gentlemanly, ghastly, ghostly, gingerly, gnarly, godly, godly, gravelly, grisly, heavenly, hilly, holy, homely, hourly, hurly, jolly, kindly, leisurely, likely, likely, lively, lonely, lordly, lovely, lowly, manly, manly, mannerly, masterly, mealy, measly, miserly, miserly, monthly, motherly, niggardly, nightly, northerly, oily, orderly, pally, pearly, portly, prickly, princely, quarterly, saintly, scaly, seemly, shapely, sickly, silly, slovenly, sly, southerly, spindly, sprightly, squirrely, stately, steely, superbly, surly, timely, touchy-feely, ungainly, unlikely, unmannerly, unruly, unseemly, unsightly, weatherly, weekly, westerly, wily, wobbly, womanly, woolly, worldly, wrinkly, yearly.

Linking verbs

Linking verbs are verbs of sensation or existence.

Examples: *feel, look, smell, sound, taste, act, appear, be, become, continue, get, go, grow, keep, lie, look, prove, remain, resemble, run, smell, seem, sit, stay, strand, taste, turn* etc.

Let us look at an example to understand how linking verbs are different from transitive and intransitive verbs.

1. **LINKING:** The nation's mood **turned** sour. (*The subject is not engaged in an action. "Turned" links "mood" and a state of being, "sour".*)
2. **TRANSITIVE:** The judge **turned** the pages quickly. (*The subject was engaged in an action — "turned" — and that action transferred to an object — "pages".*)
3. **INTRANSITIVE:** The lawyer **turned** suddenly toward the back of the courtroom. (*The subject was engaged in an action — "turned" — and that action was done in a particular way — "suddenly" — but not transferred to someone or something.*)

Here are some more examples:

Linking: You're **growing** happier every day.

Action: The plant is **growing** fast.


Linking: That doesn't **appear** to be correct.

Action: How did you suddenly **appear**?

Linking: That dinner **looks** tasty!

Action: **Look** at this dinner!

Adverbs are not used with linking verbs, but adjectives are.

WATCH OUT!			
	Action	Linking	Why? (The theory)
1	Sylvia tasted the spicy squid eyeball stew.	The squid eyeball stew tasted good.	Sylvia is not the stew! "Tasted" is an action verb in the original sentence and needs to be used as a linking verb.
2	I smell the delicious aroma of a mushroom and papaya pizza baking in the oven.	The mushroom and papaya pizza smells heavenly. 	I am not the aroma! "Smell" in this sentence, is an action verb.
3	The distressed travellers looked at their map, wondering how the Eiffel Tower had gotten to Egypt.	The map looked hopelessly confusing.	"Looked" changed from action to linking.
3	Swooping out of the clear blue sky, Superman appeared on Lois Lane's balcony.	Superman appeared happy to see Lois.	In the second sentence, the linking verb "appeared" connects "Superman" to his state of mind, "happiness".

Good, well, bad, badly

These four words are very often misused. It is important to understand their correct use. Just to appreciate how important, digest this piece of information: The adjective "**well**" has three meanings: **to be in good health, to be satisfactory, to appear well dressed.**

Study these sentences.

1. I feel **bad**.
2. The job was **badly** done.
3. He feels **good**. (*happy, in good mood*)
4. He feels **well**. (*in fine health*)
5. Is the baby behaving **well** or **badly**?
6. She feels **good** in that suit.
7. All is **well** that ends **well**.
8. She did **well** in her exam.
9. I feel **good** when I receive gifts.
10. I feel **well** today.
11. I feel **bad** about losing my job.
12. He wrote the document really **badly**. (*Badly is an adverb*)
13. The doctor says I am completely **well**.
14. *She feels **bad** about the news.*
15. You did a **good** job.
16. You did the job **well**.
17. You **smell** good today. (*Describes your odour, not how you smell with your nose, so follow with the **adjective**.*)
18. You **smell** well for someone with a cold. (*You are actively smelling with a nose here; so follow with the **adverb**.*)
19. I do not feel **well**.
20. You do not look **well** today. (*When referring to health, always use **well**.*)
21. "How are you?" "I'm **good**, thank you."
22. After a bath, the baby smells so **good**.
23. Even after my careful paint job, this room doesn't look **good**.



Unless you make **GOOD** use of these adverbs, and are confident about using them **WELL**, you may fare **BADLY** on the CAT and that can be **BAD** for your future.

Incorrect	Correct
She feels badly about the misunderstanding.	She feels bad about the misunderstanding.
The car runs good most of the time.	The car runs well most of the time.
He was hurt bad .	He was badly hurt.
We work good together.	We work well together.
Sharon's cough sounds badly .	Sharon's cough sounds bad .

Rules of adverb usage

Position of adverbs

It is very important to know the correct **place** or **position** at which an **adverb** should be used in a sentence. A change in position can dramatically alter the meaning of a sentence.

See how the position of "only" affects the meaning of the following sentences.

1. **Only** he took the French course. (*There is one student who took French in the class.*)
2. He **only** took the French course. (*He registered; he sat there; but he didn't really study or apply himself in any meaningful way.*)
3. He took **only** the French course. (*He didn't take any other course.*)
4. He took the **only** French course. (*Only one French course of any kind was offered.*)
5. He took the French **only** course. (*The entire course was conducted in French.*)
6. I **just saw** him at the gate. (Means I did not do anything else, viz., shake hands, talk etc.)
7. I saw **just him** at the gate. (*I saw only him and nobody else.*)

If some stress is to be laid on a verb, or if a reply is to be given in a short form, all the adverbs should be placed before the auxiliary verbs or the single verb "be".

1. He has **again** forgotten to bring his books.
2. Yes, he **always** does forget to bring his books.
3. "Are you free this evening?" "Yes, I **usually** am free in the evenings."
4. "When does he go to Bombay?" "He **already** has gone to Bombay."
5. "Do you travel by plane?" "Yes, I **sometimes** do."

If an adverb modifies the whole sentence or is meant to give very great stress, it is placed at the very beginning of the sentence.

1. **Unfortunately** a very serious accident occurred.
2. **Luckily** no one was killed.
3. **Out** came the lion from the den and stood before us.

Too

"Too" means more than enough. Therefore, **too** should not be used in place of **very** or **much**, otherwise it would yield an **absurd meaning**. For example, if we say, "I am **too happy** to hear of your success", it would mean, "I am happy to the extent I should not have been." Certainly this cannot be the intention of the speaker. The correct form of this sentence would be, "I am **very** happy to hear of your success."

It should be remembered that "**too**" has a **negative sense** or the sense of **undesirability**. **Too** should be used keeping in mind this sense of its meaning and implication.

For example, the following sentences are wrong:

1. **Incorrect:** Sachin Tendulkar is too good a cricketer.
2. **Incorrect:** John Abraham looks too cool in this picture.
3. **Incorrect:** You are **too** kind to me.
4. **Incorrect:** She is **too** beautiful.
5. **Incorrect:** He is **too** intelligent.
6. **Incorrect:** You are **too** faithful to me.



In the following sentences, "**too**" is used correctly:

1. The day is **too** hot.
2. The price is **too** high for me.
3. The house is **too** small for my family.
4. You are still **too** weak.
5. The weather is **too** cold.
6. It is **too** much for me to bear.
7. He is **too poor to buy** a car.
8. He is **too** weak **to run**.
9. The **river** is **too** deep for me **to cross**.
10. The enemy is **too** strong **to be overcome** easily.
11. The problem is **too** difficult for me **to** solve.

Use of "very", "much"

"Very" is used with **present participle**, and **"much"** with **past participle** or **verb**.

1. It was **very surprising**.
2. The game was **very exciting**.
3. He was **much** surprised. (*Not very surprised*)
4. I was **much shocked** to hear the news. (*Not very shocked*)
5. He was **much confused**. (*Not very confused*)
6. He **talks much**.
7. He **drinks much**.
8. **Incorrect:** The news was much interesting.
9. **Incorrect:** The news was very much interesting.
10. **Correct:** The news was very interesting.
11. **Correct:** He was very much disappointed.
12. **Incorrect:** He was too much disappointed.
13. **Correct:** This is the very best book on Marketing.
14. **Correct:** This is much the best book on Marketing.

With some **past participles** the use of **very** is correct.

1. I was **very pleased** to hear the news.
2. He was **very tired** at the end of the journey.

"Very" is used before the **positive degree** of an **adjective** or an **adverb**, and **"much"** before the **comparative degree** of an **adjective** or an **adverb**. **Very much** can also be used (in place of **much**) in the **comparative degree**, but **not** in the **positive degree**.

1. Ram's house is **much bigger** than Mohan's. (*or very much bigger*)
2. Mohan is **much more trustworthy** than Sohan.
3. Hari is **much better placed** than Rajesh.
4. Ram is **very intelligent**.
5. Mahesh is **very poor**.

Very and **much** can both be used in the **superlative degree** also but the rule is that **"very"** is used after the article **"the"**, and **"much"** before **"the"**.

1. He is **much the best** boy of the class.
2. Rakesh is **much the richest** man of the town.
3. Cow is **the very gentlest** animal.
4. This is **the very best** book available here.

Very much can be used with the **verb** in **affirmative sentences** only. Only **much** can be used in **negative sentences**.

1. I love him **very much**.
2. I don't love him **much**.

Very much, too much, much too and only too

All these **four** phrases have different meanings. **"Very much"** means "completely". **"Too much"** and **"much too"** mean "more than necessary or desirable". **"Only too"** means **"much"**.

1. I am **very much** obliged to you.
2. His performance is **very much** disappointing.
3. It gives me **too much** pain.
4. It is **much too** painful.
5. I am **only too** glad to be here.



"Too" and "even"

The difference between **too** and **even** is that **too** is used only for **emphasis**, while **even** is used in the sense of "against or contrary to hope or expectation."

For example, a brother is normally expected to help a brother, but if a brother does not help, we shall say:

Even my brother did not help me.

Similarly:

1. He helped me and my friend **too**.
2. He is intelligent and industrious **too**.
3. **Even** my father did not support me.
4. I could not **even** recognise him.

"Little" and "a little"

"Little" and **"a little"** have the same meaning as adverbs as they do as adjectives. **"Little"** is negative meaning "almost nothing" while **"a little"** means "not much".

1. I **little** expected that he would pass. (*There was almost no hope.*)
2. I was a **little** disappointed. (*There was some disappointment — not much.*)

"Since" and "ever since"

These are both **adverbs of time**.

Since means from a **certain point of time** in the past, while **ever since** means from a **certain point of time to the present**.

They are used with the **present perfect tense**, but in **indirect narration** they are used with **past perfect tense**.

1. I met him five years ago and have remembered him **ever since**.
2. We were together in school days but we have met only twice **since**.
3. He assured me that he had never done so **since**.
4. We lived in Kashmir several years ago but we have remembered those happy days **ever since**.

Else ... but

"Else" is followed by "but" not "than."

1. None **else but** the Prime Minister will come.
2. I met none **else but** your father.
3. It is nothing **else but** arrogance.

Seldom or never, seldom if ever

The correct expressions are **seldom or never** (not **ever**) and **seldom if ever** (not **never**).

1. He **seldom or never** misbehaves with anybody.
2. He **seldom if ever** drinks.

Before and ago

Both these are **adverbs of time**.

Before is used with **simple past tense** or **present perfect tense**.

Ago is used with **simple past tense** only (not with **present perfect tense**).

1. I never **before** met such a rude man.
2. I have seen Jaipur **before** also.
3. I met him a month **ago**.
4. His father died a month **ago**.

Ago suggests **past tense**; therefore it should **not** be used with any form of the **present tense**.

1. **Incorrect:** I **have arrived** here only a little while **ago**.
2. **Incorrect:** I **have completed** my work an hour **ago**.

Yet, still, already, so far

1. He is **still** in service.
2. You are **still** a student.
3. I **still** love you.
4. He **still** needs my help.
5. He has not come **yet**.
6. I have **already** finished my work.
7. He has left for office **already**.
8. I have **not yet** finished my work.
9. He has **not yet** left for office.
10. Are you **not yet** ready?
11. **He has** not **yet** come.
12. I **have already met** him.
13. He **has not met** me **so far**.

Just

Just means **right now** or **not long before**. Normally it is used with **present perfect tense**.

1. He has **just** arrived.
2. I have **just** finished my story.

Just can be used with **simple past tense** also, and there it means **only** or **barely**.

1. He **just** caught the train.
2. He **just** managed to escape.

Just has one more meaning suggesting the sense of “**at this very moment**” or “**exactly**”.

1. The clock has **just** struck two.
2. He has **just** gone out.
3. This is **just** what I wanted.

Fairly, rather

Both these are adverbs of quantity. The difference between them is that **fairly** has the sense of **liking or appreciation**, while **rather** has the sense of **disliking or disapproval**. Therefore, care should be taken not to use expressions in which there may be **mingling of liking and disliking**.

For example, all the following expressions are **incorrect**:

All Incorrect: Fairly dull, fairly ugly, fairly bad, fairly slow, fairly cunning, rather intelligent, rather beautiful, rather good, rather quick, rather honest, rather gentle, etc.

In order to correct these expressions, we should use **fairly** in place of **rather**, and **rather** in place of **fairly**.

1. The weather is **fairly pleasant**. (Not **rather pleasant**)
2. The day is **rather** hot. (Not **fairly hot**)
3. The house is **fairly** comfortable.
4. The house is **rather** uncomfortable.

No, not, none

“**No**” is used like an **adjective** before a **noun**, after the following verbs: Hope, believe, think, expect, suppose, be afraid, etc.

“**Not**” is used in place of a **noun clause**. By this use the sentence becomes **short**.

1. Can you go there? **I am afraid not**.
2. Will he pass? **I expect not**.
3. Is he fair? **I suppose not**.
4. This is **no good** pen.
5. There is **no better** pen.
6. You can travel **no faster** by any means.
7. **Not a** tree or bush was there.
8. There was **not a** man in the hall.
9. This is **no good** abusing him.
10. This is **no different** from that.
11. His behaviour towards us was **none too good**.
12. He is **none the better** in spite of my help.

Hard, hardly

Normally “**hard**” is an **adjective**, but it can also be used as an **adverb**. As an **adverb** it means **hard labour**. It is used after the **verb**.

1. He worked **hard** (not **hardly**) for the examination.
2. He tried **hard** (not **hardly**) to win the prize.



"Hardly" is an **adverb of degree**. It means **very little** or **scarcely**. It is used before a **single verb** or after the **first auxiliary** in a **compound verb**.

1. I have seen him only once and therefore **I hardly know** what type of man he is.
2. He was so changed that **I could hardly recognise** him.
3. **It** is a new medicine; it has **hardly** been tried yet.

For **emphasis**, **"hardly"** can be used at the beginning of a sentence also.

Hardly had the train stopped **when** he jumped out.

Late, lately

"Late" as an adverb means late in time.

1. He comes **late** every day.
2. The theft was committed **late** at night.
3. He married **late** in life.

"Lately" means "recently".

1. He has **lately** started a new business.
2. He has **lately** shifted to a new house.

Most, mostly

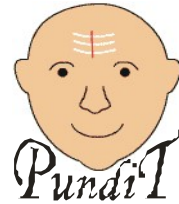
"Most" as adverb means "maximum" or "greatest".

1. The man whom I like **most** is John.
2. The man who talks **most** is often hollow.

"Mostly" means "largely".

1. His stock consists **mostly** of outdated things.
2. The students were **mostly** inattentive.
3. The audience consisted **mostly of** students.





WATCH OUT!			
	Common errors	The correct form	Why? (The theory)
1	I am going to home.	I am going home.	When home is used as an adverb of place, neither a preposition nor a relative adjective should be used before it.
2	He left in the next morning.	He left the next morning.	If words that show time, such as morning, evening, day, night, month, year , etc. have such qualifying words before them as this, that, next, last, all , etc. no preposition is used before them. But if the time-showing words are used without the qualifying words (this, that, next, last , etc.), proper prepositions should be used before them.
3	I shall come Sunday.	I shall come on Sunday.	
4	He did not go on that day.	He did not go that day.	
5	Don't come night.	Don't come in the night.	
6	I have arrived here yesterday.	I arrived here yesterday.	In a sentence in the present tense , no adverb or adverbial phrase suggestive of past tense should be used.
7	I have passed MA last year .	I passed MA last year.	
8	I advise you to carefully read the book.	I advise you to read the book carefully.	No adverb should be placed between "to" and the verb, to avoid splitting the infinitive.
9	I request you to kindly grant me leave.	I request you kindly to grant me leave.	
10	I direct you to punctually reach the office every day.	I direct you to reach the office punctually every day.	

Adverbs revisited



Incorrect	Correct
Roses smell sweetly .	Roses smell sweet .
The woman looked angrily .	The woman looked angry .
The woman looked angry at the beggar.	The woman looked angrily at the beggar.
Dolores bakes real good apple pies.	Dolores bakes really good apple pies.
She walks a lot slower since the accident.	She walks a lot more slowly since the accident.
He sure works hard.	He surely works hard.
Talk quieter .	Talk more quietly .
This is a real tough problem.	This is a really tough problem.
He damn near killed me.	He nearly killed me.
The cat crept nearly .	The cat crept near .
He is so rich.	He is very rich.
He went only that far.	He went only so far.
He is very humble to make such a tall claim.	He is too humble to make such a tall claim.
I read the proof yesterday meticulously at home.	I read the proof meticulously at home yesterday.
He comes home late often .	He often comes home late.
He usually is seen playing with his club mates.	He is usually seen playing with his club mates.
He always is at home.	He is always at home.
I used to often take a break from my packed schedule for playing tennis.	I often used to take a break from my packed schedule for playing tennis.
It is enough hot to make you desire an ice-cream.	It is hot enough to make you desire an ice-cream.
She did not despise none of her lovers.	She despised none of her lovers. OR She did not despise any of her lovers.
She seldom or ever has sweet talks with her son.	She seldom or never has sweet talks with her son. OR She seldom if ever has sweet talks with her son.

Exercise

Choose the right adverb in each of the following sentences.

- He fought (hard, hardly) for the No.1 spot.
- It would (hard, hardly) rain today.
- He never comes (lately, late).
- She is (pretty, prettily) dressed.
- You are (prettily, pretty) mistaken about him.
- The hare ran (more fast, faster) than the dog.
- The petrol price hike issue has been debated (hotlier, more hotly) than the urea scam.
- He is (that, so) intelligent *that* he does not need to attend classes.
- She is (too, very) intelligent.
- The match became (much, very) interesting.
- It is nothing else (than, but) fatigue.

Solutions

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. hard | 2. hardly | 3. late | 4. prettily |
| 5. pretty | 6. faster | 7. more hotly | 8. so |
| 9. very | 10. very | 11. but | |