

Adverbs and Adverb Phrases

Gramatika 1 - 11

ADVERBS

- The word **adverb** (ad-verb) suggests the idea of adding to the meaning of a verb. But they frequently modify other word classes:

- **verbs** She sang *loudly*. She *often* made mistakes.
- **adverbs** He spoke *rather* boldly.
- **adjectives** You're *quite* right. He's *highly* intelligent.
- **nouns** I bought *only* bread.
- **prep. phrases** She drove us *almost* to the station.
- **sentences** *Frankly*, I'm tired.

THE FORMATION OF ADVERBS

- a) Suffix **-ly**: *daily, hourly, monthly, namely, partly, weekly*

- b) Suffix **-fashion, -style, -ways, -wards, -wise**: *parrot-fashion, otherwise, sideways, backwards*

- c) Prefix **a-**: *abroad, across, ahead, aloft, aloud, around, asleep, awake*

Rules of spelling of adverbs derived by adding -ly:

- **final -y changes to -i-:**

happy – happily, gay – gaily, pretty – prettily

Exceptions: *sly – slyly, shy – shyly, dry – dryly/drily*

- **final -e is retained before -ly:**

extreme – extremely, absolute – absolutely,

complete – completely, sincere – sincerely

Exceptions: *true – truly, due – duly, whole – wholly*

- **adj ending in a consonant + -le drop -e and add -y:**

gentle – gently, humble – humbly, noble – nobly,

simple – simply, single – singly, terrible – terribly

- **adj ending in -ll drop -l:**

full – fully, dull – dully

- **adj ending in -ic take -ally:**

basic – basically, fantastic – fantastically,

tragic – tragically, systematic – systematically

Exception: *public – publicly*

Adverbs are not usually formed from adjectives that end in -ly, -ile that is from such adjectives as *manly, silly, fatherly, lively, brotherly, fertile, agile, hostile, etc.*

‘in a silly way’

‘in a fatherly manner’

‘with great agility’

‘in a hostile manner’

KINDS OF ADVERBS

- Many adverbs can be thought of as answering questions, such as:

How? (manner)

Where? (place)

When? (time)

How often? (frequency)

To what extent? (degree)

1. Adverb(ial)s of manner

HOW?

a) formed by adding *-ly* to adjectives: *actively, boldly, calmly, carefully, distinctly, easily, gladly, intentionally, promptly, simply, sincerely, suddenly, willingly, wisely, etc.*

b) formed by adding *-fashion, -style, -wards, -ways, -wise* to adjectives: *(Indian)-fashion, (American)-style, backwards, length-ways, clockwise, etc.*

c) formed from nouns with prepositions and from phraseological units: *by heart, by chance, in turn (by turns), one by one, head over heels, etc.*

2. Adverb(ial)s of place

WHERE?

a) words like: *abroad, ahead, along, anywhere/everywhere, nowhere/somewhere, ashore, away/back, backwards/forwards, here/there, left/right, north/south, upstairs/downstairs, etc.*

b) words which can also function as prepositions:
above, behind, below, beneath, underneath, etc.

c) two words combining to emphasize place, such as:
down below, down/up there, far ahead, far away, over here, over there, etc.

3. Adverb(ial)s of time

WHEN?

a) words like: *after(wards), already, before, eventually, lately, now, once, presently, recently, soon, then, today, tomorrow, yesterday, etc.*

b) prepositional phrases with *at, in or on*: *at Christmas, at present, in July, on November 20th, etc.*

4. Adverb(ial)s of frequency

HOW OFTEN?

a) words like: *always, generally, frequently, hourly, fortnightly, normally, regularly, occasionally, sometimes, usually, etc.*

b) phrases like: *every day/week/month/year; every 3 years; every few days; on Mondays, weekdays; hardly ever, scarcely ever; from time to time; now and again, etc.*

5. Adverb(ial)s of degree

TO WHAT EXTENT?

Words like: *almost, altogether, barely, a bit, enough, fairly, hardly, nearly, quite, rather, somewhat, too.*

Most of these go before the words they modify:

- **adjectives:** *quite good; The film was quite good.*
- **adverbs:** *fairly well; I know her fairly well.*
- **verbs:** *I quite like it.*
- **nouns** (in a few instances): *quite an experience*

ADVERBS AND ADVERBIALS

- An adverb(-ial) is an **adjunct** if it is neatly placed within the sentence.
- An adverb(-ial) is a **disjunct** if it is set off from the rest of the sentence and acts as an 'evaluator' of sorts.
- An adverb(-ial) acts as a **conjunct** if it is set off from a sentence, usually with a comma, and serves as a connection between two ideas.

- **Adjuncts (& Subjuncts)** (usually integrated in the clause)
- **Disjuncts & Conjuncts** (on the periphery)

ADJUNCTS

- **clause element** = adverbial (A), mostly of space, time, manner
- **position** influences **function**:
 - He spoke *clearly* and to the point. (adjunct)
 - *Clearly*, I could be wrong. (disjunct)
- can't appear initially in a negative declarative clause:
 - They left the building *quickly*.
 - *Quickly*, they left the building.
 - ****Quickly***, they didn't leave the building.

SUBJUNCTS

- have a **subordinate** and **parenthetical** role in comparison with adjuncts, cannot be compared to other clause elements
- usually **related to the predicate** or to **its part** only (not to the whole sentence)
- **emphasizers:** *just, really, simply, certainly (not), indeed, sure(ly)*
- **intensifiers:** *fully, completely, badly, rather, sort of, in the least*
- **focusers:** *merely, only, also, even, too, as well*
 - I *just / simply / really* can't believe a word he says!
 - She was *badly* in need of help.
 - He has *completely* ignored my question.
 - In spite of his manners, I *rather* like him.
 - I was *only* joking.
- they can frequently occur, **as responses** to Y/N questions e.g.:
 - (Yes) *certainly. Sure(ly). (Yes) indeed.*

DISJUNCTS

- have a superior role to sentence elements, being somewhat detached from and superordinate to the rest of the sentence.
- most disjuncts appear at **I position** (some of them also often at **M position**)

Style disjuncts:

- convey the speaker's comment on the **form** of what he is saying, defining in some way under what conditions he is speaking:
 - [*Seriously*], (do) you intend to retire!?
 - [*Personally*], I don't approve of her.
 - [*Very frankly*], I am tired.

Attitudinal (or content) disjuncts:

- convey the speaker's comment on the **content** of what he is saying
- generally appear only on the periphery of declarative clauses
 - [*Obviously*], no one expected us.
 - [*Understandably*], they were all annoyed when reading the letter.

CONJUNCTS

- they **connect** two parts of a sentence, or even two sentences, by expressing a semantic relationship between them; sometimes also called **connectors**
- appear usually **at initial position**, but their connective role is often achieved more smoothly when they are placed at M position
 - It was raining. *Therefore*, we didn't go swimming.
 - It was sunny. *However*, we stayed inside.
 - You are such a dork. *Still*, I love you from the bottom of my heart.
 - It is said that water flows up hill. *On the contrary*, it flows downhill.

Ex: Determine whether the bracketed element in each sentence is an adjunct, disjunct or a conjunct.

1. *It is [almost always] this warm in Texas.*
2. *[Frankly], Martha is a bit scary.*
3. *If she starts singing again, [then] I'm not staying.*
4. *She [often] plays the piano alone.*
5. *I love chocolate, [however], I'm allergic to it.*
6. *She told him the instructions repeatedly, [yet] he just sat there.*
7. *His mom told him to come home [before] dark.*
8. *Although he was an actor, he could sing well, [too].*
9. *She yelled his name [loudly].*
10. *[Fortunately], no one was hurt.*