

B Grammar

1 Adverb forms

Adjectives (*happy*) tell us about a noun. Adverbs (*happily*) tell us about a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Adverbs can give us information about time (when?), place (where?), manner (how?) and frequency (how often?).

Sometimes we use a phrase instead of one word:

This morning I feel happy because the weather is pleasantly warm. Some children are playing happily in the street and a blackbird is singing very beautifully.

Most adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to an adjective:

sad → *sadly* *safe* → *safely* *hopeful* → *hopefully*

There is a spelling change in adjectives ending *-y* or *-able/-ible* when they become adverbs:

angry → *angrily* *miserable* → *miserably*

An adjective ending in *-ly* (*friendly, likely, lively, lonely, lovely, silly, ugly*) cannot be made into an adverb. We have to use an adverbial phrase instead:

She started the interview in a friendly manner.

He laughed in a silly way.

2 Adverbs and adjectives easily confused

Some adjectives and adverbs have the same form. Some common ones are *fast, early, hard, late, daily*:

He caught the early train. (adjective) *He always arrives early.* (adverb)

She's a hard worker. (adjective) *She works hard.* (adverb)

The bus is always late. (adjective) *I got home late.* (adverb)

My daily coffee costs £2.50. (adjective) *I swim daily.* (adverb)

⚠ *Hard* and *hardly* are both adverbs but they have different meanings. *Hardly* means 'almost not' and it is often used with *ever* and *any*. It can go in various positions in the sentence:

She hardly noticed when he came into the room. (= she almost didn't notice)

I had hardly finished my breakfast when they arrived. (= only just)

Rachel is hardly ever absent. (= almost never)

There was hardly anyone in the cinema. (= almost nobody)

Hardly any of the children could read. (= almost none of them)

⚠ *Late* and *lately* are both adverbs but they have different meanings. *Lately* means 'recently':

I haven't read any good books lately.

⚠ The adverb for *good* is *well*, but *well* can also be an adjective which means the opposite of *ill*:

It was a good concert. The musicians played well. (= adverb)

I had a bad headache yesterday but I'm well today. (= adjective)

Some verbs are followed by adjectives, not adverbs (➤ see Unit 7, B4).

3 Comparative and superlative adverbs

Most adverbs use *more* or *less* to make comparatives and *the most* or *the least* to make superlatives:

My brother speaks Italian more fluently than me.

I speak Italian less fluently than my brother does.

Of all the students, Maria speaks English the most fluently.

8 Adverbs

Adverbs without -ly make comparatives and superlatives in the same way as short adjectives (> see Unit 7, B1):

hard → *harder* → *hardest* *high* → *higher* → *highest* *late* → *later* → *latest*

*I work hard, my sister works **harder** than I do but Alex works **the hardest**.*

⚠ Note also: *early* → *earlier* → *earliest* (**not** ~~more early~~ / ~~the most early~~)

Some comparative and superlative adverbs are irregular:

well → *better* → *best* *badly* → *worse* → *worst* *far* → *farther/further* → *farthest/furthest*

Adverbs use the same comparative structures as adjectives:

*I can't add up **as quickly as** you can.*

*They arrived **later than** us.*

4 Modifying adverbs and adjectives

Some adverbs are used to change the strength of adjectives or other adverbs.

incredibly *extremely* *really* *very* *rather* *fairly* *quite* *slightly*



*He dances **extremely** well. The weather was **very** hot.*

*He spoke to her **rather** fiercely. The house was **quite** old.*

Some adjectives (e.g. *perfect*, *impossible*, *excellent*) can only be strengthened with adverbs like *completely*, *absolutely*, *totally*, *entirely*:

*This crossword puzzle is **completely** impossible. (not ~~very impossible~~)*

5 Adverb position

The most common position for most adverbs is after the verb, or after the object of the verb if there is one. However, they may also go before the verb or at the beginning of a sentence for emphasis:

*He packed his suitcase **carefully**.* (end-position)

*He **carefully** packed his suitcase.* (mid-position)

***Carefully**, he packed his suitcase.* (front-position)

⚠ An adverb does not usually go between a verb and its object:
(**not** *He packed carefully his suitcase.*)

If there are several adverbs and/or adverbial phrases in the end-position, we usually put them in this order:

*The meeting took place how? where? when?
unexpectedly **in the Town Hall** **last Tuesday.***

Frequency adverbs (which tell us how often) are usually in the mid-position before a single word verb:

*I **usually** travel by train.*

but after *am/is/are/was/were*:

*I **am often** late.*

If the verb has two or more parts, the frequency adverb usually goes after the first part:

*I **have never been** to this part of town before.*

Adverbs can sometimes go in the front-position to give special emphasis to *how*, *when* or *how often*:

***Angrily**, she stormed out of the room.*

***Sometimes** we shop at a supermarket, but **usually** we go to the market.*

Opinion adverbs, which tell us about the speaker's attitude to the situation, usually go in the front-position, often followed by a comma:

***Luckily**, we found the money which I thought I'd lost.*

***Actually**, I don't agree with what you said.*

***In fact**, the weather was better than we'd expected.*

C Grammar exercises

1 Fill in the gaps using the adverb form of the adjectives in brackets.

- 1 Franca picked up the sleeping baby gently (gentle).
- 2 When she handed him his lost wallet, he smiled at her _____ (grateful).
- 3 Irma couldn't see her son anywhere and called his name _____ (anxious).
- 4 They followed the directions to the hotel _____ (easy).
- 5 Tomo admitted his mistake and apologised _____ (sincere).
- 6 I can't text as _____ as my sister. (fast)
- 7 You have to press the button _____ to make the machine start. (hard)
- 8 The taxi driver was _____ rude to the man with the big suitcase. (terrible)

2 Choose the correct words.

- 1 Eleni stepped *confident* / confidently onto the stage to begin her talk.
- 2 The meeting at lunchtime was a *complete* / *completely* waste of time.
- 3 Marushka did *good* / *well* in the exam and she won a prize.
- 4 Mark tried *hard* / *hardly* to make the hotel receptionist understand him, but his Spanish wasn't *fluent* / *fluently* enough.
- 5 After looking at the computer screen all day, I had an *awful* / *awfully* headache.
- 6 Even though Deborah did the job *efficient* / *efficiently*, they sacked her after two months.
- 7 The doctor couldn't understand why Carol felt so hot because her temperature was *normal* / *normally*.
- 8 The boy behaved *bad* / *badly* on a school trip so the school refused to take him on any more.
- 9 The hotel was *far* / *further* from the station than we'd expected.

3 Rewrite these sentences with the adverbs and adverbial phrases in suitable positions.

- 1 Pavel plays the guitar well for his age. (*incredibly*)
Pavel plays the guitar incredibly well for his age.
- 2 They eat steak because it is so expensive. (*rarely, nowadays*)

- 3 My grandfather used to take us swimming. (*in the summer holidays, in the lake*)

- 4 There is a good film on TV. (*usually, on Sunday evenings*)

- 5 My mother insisted that good manners are important. (*terribly, always*)

- 6 The party had started when the sound system broke, which meant we couldn't dance. (*hardly, all evening*)

8 Adverbs

4 Complete the text below with these adverbs.

always earlier hardly now rather silently skilfully stiffly very warmly

She shut the door (1) silently after her. Her father wasn't expecting her – she had arrived (2) _____ than she had said. He was sitting where he (3) _____ sat, in his favourite armchair by the window. It was (4) _____ old but had been repaired (5) _____ so that he could continue using it. The room had been redecorated since her last visit and was looking (6) _____ elegant. On the shelves were all the books which her father (7) _____ ever looked at any more.

She called his name. He stood up and she noticed that he moved very (8) _____. He smiled and held out his arms to her. She hadn't been in touch with him for five years but (9) _____ he welcomed her as (10) _____ as he always had.

5 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- a The child spread the jam thickly on the piece of bread. ✓

b The child spread thickly the jam on the piece of bread.
- a My grandmother drives more careful since she got older.

b My grandmother drives more carefully since she got older.
- a I never have bought anything from that expensive shop over there.

b I have never bought anything from that expensive shop over there.
- a Unfortunately, we can't come to the party after all.

b We can't unfortunately come to the party after all.
- a My uncle speaks Spanish very well because he lived in Peru for a while.

b My uncle speaks very well Spanish because he lived in Peru for a while.
- a My sister doesn't make friends as easily than I do.

b My sister doesn't make friends as easily as I do.

6 Correct the mistake in each of the following sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- The new trains will help them to get back to their homes ~~quicklier~~. more quickly
- The new computer system means that you can find what you are looking for more easy. _____
- The teacher was happy with our work because we had worked hardly all day. _____
- I like shoes really much because they say so much about a person. _____
- We had a party on the beach and it was very fun. _____
- You have to pay attention very well carefully to your health and eat properly. _____
- If you go and live in Paris for a year, you will be able to speak French fluent. _____
- You need to dress good for the interview, so they think you are professional. _____

Reading and Use of English Part 3

For questions **1–8**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in **the same line**. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

ASTRONAUTS

There are two types of astronaut. Some people are (**0**) commanders and they fly the spacecraft. Others are carefully trained specialists who conduct (**1**) _____ experiments of various kinds and also carry out spacewalks to repair damaged (**2**) _____.

Astronauts must pass a lot of medical tests and be qualified in a relevant subject. They have to be willing to live in an (**3**) _____ small space and work well with other people. It is possible for experiments to go (**4**) _____ wrong, threatening the (**5**) _____ of the astronauts. They have to be able to react calmly in a difficult situation and they must also be prepared to work hard.

The first British astronaut was, (**6**) _____, a woman – most astronauts are male. Helen Sharman got the job after hearing an announcement on the radio. There were 18,000 applicants and, (**7**) _____ for Helen, she was chosen. She said that the most (**8**) _____ thing for her was seeing the Earth from 120 miles into space.

COMMAND

**SCIENCE
EQUIP**

**EXTREME
DANGER
SAFE**

USUAL

**LUCK
AMAZE**



Exam tip

You will need to make more than one change to some words.

Grammar focus task

Find eight adverbs in the completed text above. Write the adverb and the adjective which it comes from.

- | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>carefully</u> | <u>careful</u> |
| 2 | _____ | _____ |
| 3 | _____ | _____ |
| 4 | _____ | _____ |
| 5 | _____ | _____ |
| 6 | _____ | _____ |
| 7 | _____ | _____ |
| 8 | _____ | _____ |

