

Adverbs

Adverbs modify verbs (and intensify or further describe other adverbs and adjectives). Adverbs answer these questions.

WHEN?

*or under what conditions
or how often or how long*

HOW?

or in what manner

WHY?

or for what reason

WHERE?**WHEN?**

Because it was the first day of school, the teacher cheerfully *greeted* each student at the door **this morning**.
At lunch, my father *stopped* at a roadside café and carefully *studied* the map for an alternate route.
When the fish puts up a fight, firmly *plant* your feet on the deck so that you can drag it toward the boat.

WHY?

Because it was the first day of school, the teacher cheerfully *greeted* each student at the door this morning.
At lunch, my father *stopped* at a roadside café and carefully *studied* the map **for an alternate route**.

WHERE?

Because it was the first day of school, the teacher cheerfully *greeted* each student **at the door** this morning.
At lunch, my father *stopped* **at a roadside café** and carefully *studied* the map for an alternate route.
When the fish puts up a fight, firmly *plant* your feet **on the deck** so that you can drag it toward the boat.

HOW?

Because it was the first day of school, the teacher **cheerfully** *greeted* each student at the door this morning.
At lunch, my father *stopped* at a roadside café and **carefully** *studied* the map for an alternate route.
When the fish puts up a fight, **firmly** *plant* your feet on the deck so that you can drag it toward the boat.

General Rules

Placement—Adverbs can be placed anywhere in the sentence.

During class, Joe is **seldom** *focused* **on the teacher** **when she explains a math problem**.

A few adverbs (NOT, NEVER, EVER, SELDOM, RARELY, ALWAYS, OFTEN) require special placement.

Bob is **never** late. Bob **never** *arrives* on time. Bob has **never** *arrived* on time.

Punctuation—Adverbs in the middle or at the end of the sentence do not require commas. Adverbs phrases and clauses require a comma if they are at the beginning of the sentence interrupting the subject.

During class, Joe is **seldom** *focused* **on the teacher** **when she explains a math problem**.

Single word adverbs of short phrases of time may or may not be separated by a comma when they come at the beginning of the sentence interrupting the subject.

Order - When stacking up adverbs up at the end of the sentence, follow this order.

MANNER → PLACE → FREQUENCY → TIME → PURPOSE

Their father *crept* **quietly into their bedroom** **each night** **before he went to bed to tuck them in**.

Adverb Forms

Words

Words can work as adverbs modifying a verb. Words also work as intensifiers for other adverbs and adjectives (this unit focuses on adverbs modifying verbs). Adverbs that connect sentences are called conjunctive

Defiantly, Julius Caesar *marched* across the Rubicon to initiate civil war.
 He *was* **not** *able* to catch the bus because his boss needed him to work late.
 The package was a **rather** *small* box which no one knew how to open.
 Change the oil every 5,000 miles; **otherwise** overheating could damage the engine.

Prepositional Phrases

The prepositional phrase can work as an adverb modifying a verb.

Prepositional Phrase = *preposition + optional modifiers + noun (object of the preposition)*

The rocket *lifted* slowly **off the ground in the beginning**.
In 49 BCE, Julius Caesar *marched* **across the Rubicon**.

Phrases of Time

The adverb phrase of time works as an adverb modifying a verb.

Phrase of time = *noun (about time) + optional modifiers*

He *was* not *able* to catch the bus **today**.
Last night, the frost *killed* the fragile orange blossoms.

Infinitive Phrases

The infinitive phrase can work as an adverb modifying a verb.

Infinitive Phrase = *TO + base form of verb + optional complements and modifiers*

Julius Caesar *marched* across the Rubicon **to initiate civil war**.
To catch the bus, he must leave by 5:00 PM.

Subordinate Clauses

The subordinate clause works as an adverb modifying a verb.

Subordinate Clause = *subordinate conjunction + subject + verb + optional complements and modifiers*

He *was* not *able* to catch the bus **because his boss needed him to work late**.
While we were waiting for a table, we *scanned* the menu.
 The experiment *was* successful **even though the results disproved his theory**.