

# ADVERBS OF TIME

## Listening Strategy: Adverbs of Time

Time words can tell us *when* an action happens, *for how long*, and *how often*.

### 1. Adverbs That Tell Us When

Adverbs of time that tell us when something happens often come at the end of a sentence. Listen for words like *ago*, *yesterday*, *in (two days)*, *today*, *tomorrow*, *later*, *soon*, and *earlier*.

**Ex** My interview was **three days ago**.

He was fired **yesterday**.

I'll see Joe **today**.

This medication expires **in two days**.

Your doctor will be in **soon**.

(ago = in the past)

(yesterday = in the past)

(today = in the near future)

(in two days = in the future)

(after a short time)

**Note** The adverb may come at the start of the sentence for emphasis:

**Ex** **Later**, I interviewed the applicant.

I interviewed the applicant **later**.

(emphasis on time)

(NO emphasis on time)

### When???

**Three days ago.**

**Yesterday**

**Today**

**In two days**

**Soon.**

## 2. Adverbs That Tell Us for How Long

Adverbs that tell us for how long are also usually placed at the end of the sentence. Listen for words like *for, since, until, briefly, and all (day)*.

<b>Ex</b> The event will last until <b>Tuesday</b> .	(from now, but stopping on Tuesday)
The training was very <b>quick</b> .	(for a short amount of time)
Brian was on sick leave <b>for a week</b> .	(a period of 7 days)
She has worked here <b>since 2015</b> .	(from a certain date)

How long????

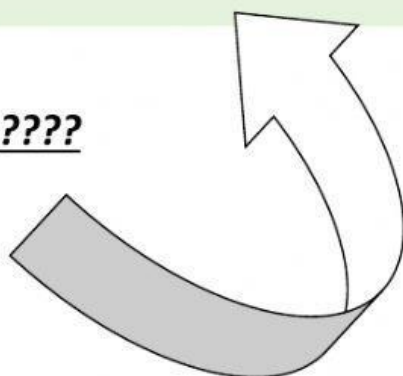
For

Since

Until

Briefly

All day



## 3. Adverbs That Tell Us How Often

Adverbs that tell us how often are adverbs of frequency. They usually come before the main verb, but after auxiliary verbs (*be, have, may, and must*). Listen for words like *usually, sometimes, often, normally, occasionally, rarely, and never*.

- Ex** She **never** takes a day off.  
I **always** try to work overtime.  
The surgeon **rarely** makes mistakes.  
We **often** have online meetings.

0%

100%

never rarely occasionally sometimes often usually always

### Now watch the video



**A** Listen and write the missing words. Circle *when*, *how often*, or *how long*.  Track 75

1. I took some sick leave this \_\_\_\_\_. when / how often / how long
2. The orientation lasted \_\_\_\_\_. when / how often / how long
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ attends meetings. when / how often / how long
4. They will announce new regulations \_\_\_\_\_. when / how often / how long
5. She worked here \_\_\_\_\_. when / how often / how long

6. The company has been here \_\_\_\_\_. when / how often / how long
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ need new staff. when / how often / how long
8. The database will shut down \_\_\_\_\_ today. when / how often / how long
9. Martin retired \_\_\_\_\_. when / how often / how long
10. Getting qualifications is \_\_\_\_\_ helpful. when / how often / how long