

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**.

(ago = in the past)

He was fired **yesterday**.

(yesterday = in the past)

I'll see Joe **today**.

(today = in the near future)

This medication expires **in two days**.

(in two days = in the future)

Your doctor will be in **soon**.

(after a short time)

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

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

(emphasis on time)

I interviewed the applicant **later**.

(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).

Ex The event will last until **Tuesday**.

(from now, but stopping on Tuesday)

The training was very **quick**.

(for a short amount of time)

Brian was on sick leave **for a week**.

(a period of 7 days)

She has worked here **since 2015**.

(from a certain date)

How long????

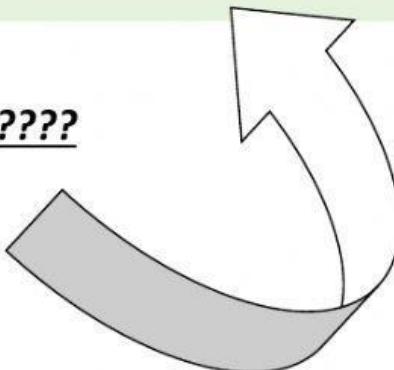
For

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