Order out of chaos 3 – word order and time frequency adverbs – by S.K. Meyer



By now, you know the basic structure of an English sentence: SUBJECT + VERB + COMPLEMENT
Ex., *I love English! You love English! She loves English! You love English! They love English!, …*

…but do you sometimes have doubts about where **adverbs** (*as single words or adverbial phrases*) go? I'm not surprised. Why? Two reasons! What are they? *You'll find out, soon.*

First…*STAR TO THE RESCUE*! Here's **my secret weapon: *Star's 2 verb groups***.

1. I realized that all English verbs can be divided into two groups that follow their own rules for making even basic sentences. I'll bet you can intuit them because you can already make lots of types of statements and questions. READ the descriptions of the verb groups, then DRAG and DROP the verbs onto the lines in the right group (*Hey! Drop lines need the content in the left hand corner, or the content will bounce back.*) … There are more drop lines than necessary, or it would be too easy! ☺

Oh, I should also warn you that ONE of these verbs is a **trickster** that usually wants to go in group n.1, but sometimes wants to go in group n. 2, too, *so put it on the "trickster" line, for now*. Need help deciding? Think of sentences with *definitely*!

All other verbs (incl. "to do")	to have (in BrE)	modals	to have (in AmE)	to be	to have (as a helping verb)

STAR'S VERB GROUP N. 1:



-inverts subject & verb for Qs

-the same verb in Short Answers

-mid-position adverbs AFTER conjugated verbs

-negative with "not"

THE "TRICKSTER":



-usually in GROUP 1, but NOTHING (except "not") can go between it & its object, so with mid-position adverbs, it goes in GROUP 2!

STAR'S VERB GROUP N. 2:

-"do" for Qs

- "do" in Short Answers



-mid-position adverbs BEFORE conjugated verbs

-negative with "do" + "not"

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2. Why was I not surprised that you sometimes don't know where to put adverbs in English sentences? In the pulldown menu,

CLICK on the right answer: .....

DO THIS BEFORE GOING AHEAD!

3. *Don't panic! Why?* CLICK on the right answer: *because…* it doesn't matter where they go | there are **3** *NEUTRAL* positions; *Star's 2 verb groups will help you*

There are LOTS of kinds of adverbs, and – depending on the KIND of ADVERB –, they can go in one of **THREE** places, when they are used in a **NEUTRAL** sense. (When you want to be emphatic, SOME adverbs can go in different places, but … *don't panic!* … we will only look at the **NEUTRAL** places, right now.) They can go …



--at the **BEGINNING** of a phrase or sentence, ex., **Next**, we want to go to Birmingham.

--in the '**MIDDLE**' of a phrase or sentence, ex., We **completely** forgot to go to Birmingham.
(***you need Star's 2 verb groups for this!!!***)

--at the **END** of a phrase or sentence, We want to walk to Birmingham, **slowly**.

4. *Don't panic!* In this task, we will look at only TWO that talk about **time**: **DEFINITE and INDEFINITE time frequency**.

CLICK on the adverbs that you know (*no "right"/"wrong" answers*): sometimes - tomorrow - last month - never

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. DRAG & DROP the adverbs under the correct category. Watch out! There are more drop spots than adverbs (or it's too easy)!

never sometimes yesterday today always tomorrow often last month

DEFINITE TIME FREQUENCY ADVERB:



INDEFINITE TIME FREQUENCY ADVERB:

6. So, what kinds of adverbs are **time frequency adverbs**? Let's start with **DEFINITE time frequency adverbs**. When they are used **NEUTRALLY**, they are **end-position adverbs** (*if 1-2 words, often preceded by a* ***comma***), ex., She goes, **tomorrow**.

Your turn! You write some examples (*not graded*). Use the **provided words**; **add** the **capital letter**, as necessary!

a.) yesterday – to walk – I: _____

b.) to read – she – today: _____

c.) in the spring – they – to buy: _____

7. What about **INDEFINITE time frequency adverbs**? When they are being used **NEUTRALLY**, they are **mid-position** adverbs, so they go…in the "middle" of the phrase or sentence, but just WHERE in the middle **depends on STAR'S VERB GROUPS**. **Scroll back up, and absorb that information *before you continue*.**

I'll wait! ☺

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CLICK and CHOOSE, correctly.



a. I _____ want _____ to see you!

b. They _____ eat _____ Italian food.

c. She _____ is _____ happy to see movies a second time.

8. What about the verb "**to have**" in **British English**? If it makes questions and negatives and short answers like all the other verbs in STAR'S VERB GROUP N. 1, why is it a "**trickster**"? You look at this example, and CLICK, then CHOOSE, correctly:

Ex., *She said that she always has a clean car.* ... What did you notice, and why do you think that it's this way?

a. WHAT is DIFFERENT from other GROUP N. 1 VERBS?: _____

b. WHY is there this DIFFERENCE? _____

9. Now, show Star what you can do! Let's see **the two verb groups, together**! CLICK, then CHOOSE the correct answers:



a. We _____ sang _____ songs at home.

b. You _____ come _____ late to work.

c. I _____ am _____ grumpy. (*irritabile*)

d. They _____ are _____ so moody! (*lunatici*)

e. He _____ writes _____ snail mail. (*posta cartacea*)

f. We _____ succeed _____ in English with Star's help!

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