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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

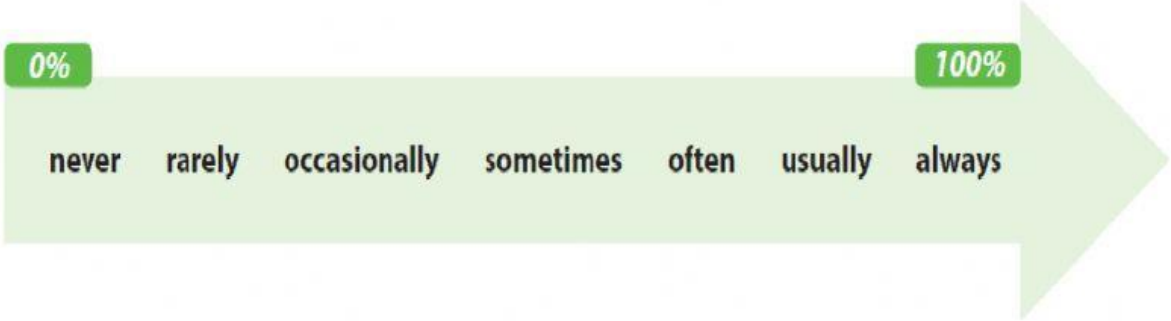
All day

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS