

Order out of chaos 2 – word order and adverbs – by S.K. Meyer

Use CHROME/SAFARI to do Star's interactive worksheet on <https://www.liveworksheets.com/> to help you (the worksheet may have been sent to you, individually, or it may be in your workbook ... check!).

By now, you know the basic structure of an English sentence, but do you sometimes have doubts about where **adverbs** (single words or adverbial phrases) go in English sentences? I'm not surprised. Why? *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"

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

4. CLICK on the adverbs that you have used (no "right"/"wrong" answers): sometimes tomorrow quickly too only

5. Fun with **ONLY**! It can go anywhere, BUT the **meaning changes**. In the pulldown menu, CLICK on the right meaning:

- a) She**only** told him that she loved him.
- b.) She told **only** him that she loved him.
- c.) She told him **only** that she loved him.
- d.) She told him that **only** she loved him.
- e.) She told him that she **only** loved him.
- f.) She told him that she loved **only** him.
- g.) She told him that she loved him, **only**.
- h.) **Only** she told him that she loved him.
- i.) **Only**, she told him that she loved him.

This is pretty rare, though, so let's start looking at WHERE adverbs can go for their NEUTRAL meaning...and use that one!

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6. Because the POSITION depends on the KIND of adverb, let's start with identifying some COMMON EXAMPLES. CLICK ON, DRAG and DROP these adverbs onto the lines under the correct category names. Use them all!

almost	around	fast	for (verb)ing	here	infinitive with "to"	luckily	
maybe	(n)either...(n)or	next	pretty	really	tomorrow	too	usually

CERTAINTY	COMPLETENESS	CONNECTING	DEGREE	DIRECTION	EMPHASIZING
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
					

FOCUSSING	MANNER	PLACE	PURPOSE
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_____	_____	_____	_____
			

SEQUENCING	SPEAKER'S OPINION	TIME FREQUENCY-DEFINITE	TIME FREQUENCY-INDEFINITE
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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Now let's look at WHERE adverbs go when they express their **NEUTRAL** meanings. There are three places adverbs can go: at the **BEGINNING** of a phrase or sentence, in the **MIDDLE** of a phrase or sentence (*you need Star's 2 verb groups for this!!!*), and at the **END** of a phrase or sentence. Even when **NEUTRAL**, some of the categories of adverbs can go in more than one position (and, of course, many have different positions for when they are being emphatic in some way ... remember **ONLY?!?**).

7. First, here are the categories of adverbs that want to be at the **BEGINNING** of a phrase or sentence to be **NEUTRAL**: *certainty* (some of them!), *purpose*, *sequencing*, *speaker's opinion*, *time frequency-definite* (*IF not the main focus*). **CLICK** on the pulldown menu, and choose the **CORRECT** adverb most appropriate for the **CONTEXT**:

- a.), you need basic computer skills to do these online exercises!
- b.) the perfect cup of tea, go to the "Mary Poppins" café.
- c.), the right idea popped into her head.
- d.), it was the right one!
- e.), I managed to finish it.



When do you need **COMMAS** after the adverbs to separate them from the "real" beginnings of sentences (the subject or the imperative verb)? It depends. The comma physically and psychologically separates the adverb from the rest of the sentence a bit, and speakers (should!) pause when there's a comma, ex., *Please, sit down*. Without the comma, the tie and the command are stronger, ex., *Please sit down*.



8. Second, here are the categories of adverbs that want to be at the **END** of a phrase or sentence to be **NEUTRAL**: *direction, manner, place, purpose, sequencing, time frequency-definite (IF the main focus)*. You'll notice that **(1)** some of these can also go at the beginning, and still be neutral, and **(2)** the use of commas is the same as it is for adverbs that want to go at the beginning of the phrase or sentence; using commas or not depends on the strength of the tie that the writer (or speaker) wants to convey. **CLICK** on the pulldown menu, and choose the **CORRECT** adverb most appropriate for the **CONTEXT**:

- a.) She sent the package
- b.) It went,
- c.) It got put
- d.) He ran to the computer store
- e.) He hesitated because he wanted to talk to the clerk,
- f.) He decided to buy a new one,



9. **Heads up!** If you are mixing these three **END** position adverbs or adverbial phrases, they must go in this order: *manner, place, time*. **CLICK ON, DRAG and DROP** the adverbs/adverbial phrases into the right places:

on hot summer day

at the end of her garden

helplessly

Alice fell down the rabbit hole _____

Let's look at **MID-POSITION** adverbs, next. You'll need to see how they are treated by the verbs in *Star's 2 verb groups*, again. **Scroll back up, and absorb that information before you continue.**



10. Based on Star's 2 verb groups, CLICK on HERE for the right **NEUTRAL** place of the **MID-POSITION** adverb in question:

- a.) DEFINITELY: Although she had to wait, she HERE wanted HERE to go.
- b.) PRETTY WELL: The deal HERE is HERE concluded.
- c.) HOWEVER: The details, HERE, need, HERE, to be, HERE, finalized.
- d.) ALMOST: The negotiating HERE has HERE finished.
- e.) TERRIBLY: The contract HERE is HERE important for us.
- f.) MOSTLY: Our CEO HERE is HERE in agreement.
- g.) RAPIDLY: The negotiating HERE is HERE drawing to a close.
- h.) LUCKILY: The other CEO HERE agrees HERE with us.
- i.) USUALLY: Negotiations HERE go HERE pretty quickly.
- j.) SOMETIMES: Obstacles HERE can HERE come up.



11. One last push! CLICK ON the pulldown menu, & CHOOSE the right adverb for that **NEUTRAL POSITION & CONTEXT**:

- a.) _____, if you have _____ done all this task, adverbs should have no mysteries, _____.
- b.) _____, Star is _____ here to help you, _____.
- c.) _____, studying a lot _____ makes all the difference, _____!

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