

## the position of adverbs and adverbial phrases

- 1 He walks **very slowly**.  
I speak five languages **fluently**.  
The driver was **seriously** injured in the accident.
- 2 I **hardly ever** have time for breakfast.  
Liam's **always** late for work.  
I would **never** have thought you were 40.
- 3 It rained **all day yesterday**.  
My parents'll be **here in half an hour**.

3.14



- 4 I've **nearly** finished.  
We're **incredibly** tired.  
My husband works **a lot**, but he doesn't earn **much**.
- 5 **Unfortunately**, the parcel never arrived.  
**Ideally**, we should leave here at 10.00.

- Adverbs can describe an action (e.g. *he walks **slowly***) or modify adjectives or other adverbs (e.g. *it's **incredibly** expensive*, *he works **very** hard*). They can either be one word (e.g. *often*) or a phrase (e.g. *once a week*).

- 1 **Adverbs of manner** describe how somebody does something. They usually go after the verb or verb phrase, however, with passive verbs they usually go in mid-position (before the main verb but after an auxiliary verb).

- 2 **Adverbs of frequency** go before the main verb but after the verb *to be*.

- *sometimes, usually, and normally* can also be put at the beginning of the phrase or sentence for emphasis, e.g. *Sometimes the weather can be very wet, but not today.*
- If there are two auxiliary verbs, the adverb goes after the first one.

- 3 **Adverbs of time and place** normally go at the end of a sentence or clause. Place adverbs normally go before time adverbs. **NOT** *My parents will be in half an hour here.*

- Adverbs of time can also go at the beginning for emphasis, e.g. **Soon** *it will be Christmas!* **OR** *It will be Christmas soon!*

- 4 **Adverbs of degree** describe how much something is done, or modify an adjective.

- *nearly and almost* are used before a verb or verb phrase.
- *extremely, incredibly, very, etc.* are used with adjectives and adverbs, and go before them.
- *a lot and much* are often used with verbs and go after the verb or verb phrase.
- *a little / a bit (of)* can be used with adjectives or verbs, e.g. *I'm a bit / a little tired. We rested a bit / a little after the flight.*

- 5 **Comment adverbs** (which give the speaker's opinion) usually go at the beginning of a sentence or clause. Other common comment adverbs are: *luckily, basically, clearly, obviously, apparently, eventually, etc.*

### Other adverbs

Most other adverbs go in mid-position, e.g. *I **just** need ten more minutes. I didn't speak to Jo at the party – I didn't **even** see her. She'll **probably** come in the end.*

In each sentence one of the highlighted adverbs or adverbial phrases is in the wrong position. Rewrite the sentences.

1 He usually immediately gets up when his alarm rings.

*He usually gets up immediately when his alarm rings.*

2 Although she studies a lot, she goes rarely to the library.

\_\_\_\_\_

3 I crashed my new car unfortunately last week.

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Ideally, we should leave tomorrow early.

\_\_\_\_\_

5 I can understand a word hardly when people speak English quickly.

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Kevin nearly forgot yesterday his doctor's appointment.

\_\_\_\_\_

7 She's angry incredibly because her husband came home late last night.

\_\_\_\_\_

8 It surprisingly didn't rain at all while we were in London.

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Ellie ate all her lunch, ever / even the vegetables!

2 I haven't seen Harry late / lately, have you?

3 I can't stand most TV programmes, specially / especially reality shows.

4 Dave near / nearly crashed his car, but he braked just in time.

5 Please don't tell me what happens, because I haven't read the book still / yet.

6 I'm not going to Sam's party. I hard / hardly know him! He's your friend, not mine.

7 Do you ever / even wear jeans to work?

8 My grandparents don't live near / nearly here; they live about 30 miles away.

9 My father worked very hard / hardly all his life.

10 Alan's feet are so big that his shoes are especially / specially made for him.

11 My cousin is a doctor, and at the moment / actually she's working in Africa.

12 I can't wait to find out what happens at the end / in the end of this book.

13 I missed my bus because I got up late / lately.

14 We were thinking of going to the cinema, but at the end / in the end we just went out for a drink.

15 I thought the film was going to be boring, but actually / at the moment I really enjoyed it.

16 I didn't finish the  **LIVEWORKSHEETS** writing when the teacher told us to stop.

Complete the sentences with an adverb from the list that matches the definition in brackets.

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apparently   basically   certainly   eventually  
gradually   ideally   in fact   obviously

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- 1 Basically (the main reason is), we haven't got enough money to buy our own flat.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (in a perfect world), we'd each have our own room in the flat, but that isn't possible.
- 3 That's \_\_\_\_\_ (without a doubt) the best lobster that I've ever eaten – it was delicious!
- 4 My sister is \_\_\_\_\_ (little by little) building a new life for herself after her divorce.
- 5 If you keep applying for jobs, you'll find one \_\_\_\_\_ (in the end).
- 6 I thought the meal was going to be expensive, but \_\_\_\_\_ (the truth is) it was quite reasonable.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (clearly), her son will move out when he gets a job, but for now he's living with her.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (according to what I've heard), a lot of flights have been cancelled because of the cabin crew strike.