

## 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 13))

2 I **hardly ever** have time for breakfast. Liam's **always** late for work. I would **never** have thought you were 40.

3 My parents will be **here in half an hour**. It rained **all day yesterday**.

4 I'm **nearly** finished. We're **incredibly** tired. My husband works **a lot**, but he doesn't earn **much**.

5 **Unfortunately**, the package never arrived. **Ideally**, we should leave here at 10:00.



My parents will be here in half an hour.

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).

a **Underline** the adverbs or adverbial phrases and correct the sentences where the order is wrong.

We're going to be unfortunately late. **X**

*Unfortunately*, we're going to be late.

He can speak Turkish fluently. **✓**

1 She liked very much the present.

2 Mark came last night very late home.

3 The ambulance arrived at the scene of the accident after a few minutes.

4 A young man was injured badly and was taken to the hospital.

5 I was extremely tired last night.

6 She's lazy a little bit about doing her homework.

7 I forgot your birthday almost, but fortunately my sister reminded me.

8 We luckily had taken an umbrella because it started to rain just after we left.

9 Mary doesn't always eat healthily because she often has snacks between meals.

10 Jack has been apparently fired.

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.
- If there are two auxiliary verbs, the adverb goes after the first one.

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

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

- *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 little bit* can be used with adjectives or verbs, e.g., *I'm a little tired. We rested a little bit 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. She didn't *even* say goodbye. She'll *probably* come in the end.

b Put the adverbs in parentheses in the normal position in these sentences.

*seriously*

She wasn't **A** injured when she fell. (seriously)

1 Their house was damaged in the fire. (badly, last week)

2 Ben is at his friend's house. (often, in the evening)

3 My father takes a nap. (usually, in the afternoon)

4 Julia left and she didn't say goodbye. (early, even)

5 Martin talks fast. (always, incredibly)

6 His brother died in a skiing accident. (apparently, nearly)

7 We're going to the movies. (probably, tonight)

8 I send emails. (rarely, nowadays)

9 I bought a beautiful new coat. (just, really)

10 Karen realized that she was going to learn to drive. (eventually, never)

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