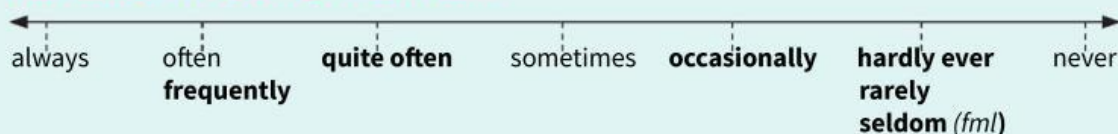


A

Adverbs of frequency: how often



She **hardly ever** plays tennis now.
 I **occasionally** go to the theatre.
 We see them quite **frequently**.

I am **often** late.
 He **rarely** works at weekends.
 I have **never** been to America.

Language help

Remember that frequency adverbs usually go before the main verb, with the exception of the verb *be*. Notice the position of the adverb when the present perfect is used.

B

Adverbs of degree: how much

I was **a bit** tired. (*infml*) The flat was **a little (bit)** small. She was **slightly** nervous.

Language help

A bit, a little and **slightly** have the same meaning and are mostly used before adjectives that express negative ideas, e.g. *We were a bit bored.* *I was slightly upset.* (NOT *I was a-bit happy.*)
A bit and *a little* cannot be used with adjectives before a noun.
It was a slightly small flat. (NOT *It was a-bit small flat.*)

The next four adverbs all mean 'more than *a bit* but less than very'.

The hotel was **quite** busy. We had **quite a** nice room. (NOT ~~a quite nice~~ room)

The food was **fairly** boring. It was **a fairly** wet day.

I was **rather** annoyed I missed the film. It was **a rather** good party. OR **rather a** good party.

The weather was **pretty** good. (*infml*) We had **a pretty** difficult journey.

The restaurant was **completely/totally** empty. I **totally/completely** agree with you.

We had an **extremely** interesting trip. [very interesting]

It's an **incredibly** good book.

C

Adverbs of manner

These adverbs describe the way in which someone does something, or the way that something happens.

Nora had **secretly**¹ put all of the letters into her bag.

Penelope was in pain, and I could see she needed help **urgently**³.

I went in and shut the door **quietly**.
 The curtains were closed and the room was dark, but I **suddenly**² realised I wasn't alone.

I spoke to Charles **briefly**⁴ this morning.
 I asked him very **politely** if he could work an extra hour this evening, but he reacted quite **angrily** and walked off.

¹ in a way that others couldn't know about

² quickly

³ very quickly because of something important

⁴ for a short time

Exercises

91.1 Form sentences from the words.

- 1 get occasionally I early up
- 2 me ever phones she hardly
- 3 have leg my broken never I
- 4 frequently them I at visit weekends
- 5 brother often me Sunday calls quite on my
- 6 summer saw I him rarely the during
- 7 office always in she the is eight before

I occasionally get up early.

91.2 Replace the underlined adverb with a different adverb that has a similar meaning.

- 1 The film was pretty good. *rather*
- 2 She hardly ever goes to conferences now.
- 3 The shops were quite busy.
- 4 They are two sisters, but they look totally different.
- 5 I thought the film was a bit disappointing, didn't you?
- 6 I'm afraid I'm extremely busy next week.
- 7 We often ask them to turn their music down.

91.3 Put the two ideas into one sentence by using a suitable adverb.

- 1 I walked up the path. I didn't make a noise. *I walked up the path quietly.*
- 2 I must speak to her. It's important.
- 3 I asked him to move his car. I did it in a nice and correct way.
- 4 I spoke to her. I made sure the others didn't know.
- 5 He ran out of the room. It was very quick and unexpected.
- 6 I spoke to her this morning. It was only for a few minutes.

91.4 Change the underlined adverbs in 1-4 to make them more positive. Change the underlined adverbs in 5-7 to make them less negative.

- 1 The play was quite interesting. *very*
- 2 I thought they were very good.
- 3 He's been getting quite good marks in his exams.
- 4 It's a pretty nice house.
- 5 John said the flat was very small.
- 6 They said it was fairly boring.
- 7 His clothes were very dirty.

91.5 Over to you

Make the sentences true for you by adding a suitable adverb, in the correct place.

- 1 I clean my teeth after breakfast. *I always clean my teeth after breakfast.*
- 2 I buy clothes I don't like.
- 3 I lose things.
- 4 I forget things.
- 5 I remember my dreams.
- 6 I speak to strangers on buses and trains.
- 7 I give money to people in the street if they ask me.

Now think about each of your answers to the sentences above. Do you think they are:

- a) fairly typical? b) slightly unusual? c) quite unusual?

If possible, compare your answers with someone else.