

A

**Front position**

Most types of adverb commonly go in front position in a clause (see Unit 74A). In particular –

☆ <i>connecting adverbs</i> , which make immediately clear the logical relation to the previous sentence.	<input type="checkbox"/> The value of the yen has fallen. <b>As a result</b> , Japan faces a crisis.
☆ <i>time and place adverbs</i> , which give more information about a previous reference to a time or place.	<input type="checkbox"/> The last few days have been hot. <b>Tomorrow</b> the weather will be much cooler.
☆ <i>comment and viewpoint adverbs</i> , which highlight the speaker's attitude to what they are about to say (see Unit 78).	<input type="checkbox"/> She has just heard that her sister is ill. <b>Presumably</b> , she will want to go home.

Note, however, that other positions are possible for these adverbs.

Some words can be used both as comment adverbs or adverbs of manner. As comment adverbs they usually go in front position (but can go in other positions) and relate to the whole of the clause; as adverbs of manner they usually go in end position and modify the verb. Compare:

- Naturally**, I'll do all I can to help. *and*
- The radioactive gas *occurs* **naturally** in many areas.

*Also: clearly, curiously, frankly, honestly, oddly, plainly, seriously*

Note that for special emphasis or focus, adverbs that usually go in mid position (see B) and end position (see also Units 74 and 76) can sometimes be put in front position:

- In May**, Maxine had a baby.
- Regularly**, Helena works on several paintings at once.

B

**Mid position**

The following types of adverb usually go in mid position (see Unit 74A) –

- ☆ *degree adverbs* (e.g. **almost, hardly, nearly, quite, rather, scarcely**):
  - The street lighting was so bad that we **almost** missed the turning.
 although some (e.g. **completely, enormously, entirely, greatly, slightly**) can go in end position:
  - I *admire* your work **greatly**. (or I **greatly** *admire* your work.)
 Note that some degree adverbs are not usually used in mid position with some verbs. For example, **enormously** is not usually used in mid position with **develop, differ, go up** or **vary**; **greatly** is not normally used in mid position with **care** or **suffer**.

- ☆ *adverbs which indicate the order of events*, such as **first, last** and **next**. These can also go in end position, but if there is a phrase giving the time of an event they usually go before this:

- I **first** met her in 1997. (or I met her **first** in 1997.)

We don't usually put these in front position, except to list actions (see also Unit 76B):

- Next**, add three teaspoons of sugar.

- ☆ *adverbs of frequency* which say in an indefinite way how often something happens, including **hardly ever, often, rarely, regularly, seldom** (see also Unit 76B); and also the frequency adverbs **always** and **never**:

- We **hardly ever** see Kaspar nowadays, he's so busy at the office.

Note, however, that adverbial phrases of indefinite frequency (e.g. **as a rule, on many occasions, from time to time, every so often**) usually go in front or end position:

- As a rule**, I go every six months. (or ... every six months, **as a rule**; *not* I as a rule go ...)

C

We rarely put long adverbials (including clauses; see Units 58 and 59), and prepositional and noun phrases in mid position. Usually they go in end position or front position for emphasis:

- She phoned home, **anxious for news**. (or **Anxious for news**, she phoned home.)
- He picked up the vase **with great care**. (or **With great care** he picked up the vase.)
- I'd seen Tarik **the day before**. (or **The day before**, I'd seen Tarik.)

## Exercises

75.1 Complete each pair of sentences using one adverb from the box. Put the adverb in front position (as a comment adverb) in one sentence, and in end position (as an adverb of manner) in the other. **A**

clearly    ~~curiously~~    frankly    honestly    plainly    seriously

- 1 a Curiously, the house has two chimneys ..... , although there's only one fireplace.  
b ....., Esther looked at him curiously, trying to work out whether he was being serious or not.
- 2 a ....., I was brought up to earn money ....., not to steal it from others.  
b ....., I'm perfectly capable of putting up the shelf myself .....
- 3 a ....., she admitted ..... that she felt she wasn't doing a good job.  
b ....., I went to sleep during his lecture ....., it was so boring.
- 4 a A: Thanks for looking after the children for me.  
   b: That's okay.  
   A: ....., I don't know what I'd have done if you hadn't been around to help.  
   b ....., I tried to speak ..... to him about his bad behaviour, but he kept making me laugh.
- 5 a The chief executive of Eclom has phoned me every day this week to ask whether I've made my mind up. .... , he wants me to take the job .....
- b ....., I'd had very little sleep and was having difficulty thinking .....
- 6 a Lucas fidgeted in his seat and kept looking nervously at the door. .... , he was feeling ill at ease .....
- b ..... she always dressed ..... at work in a white blouse and grey skirt.

75.2 Cross out any adverbs or adverbials that are incorrect / unlikely in these sentences. **B & Unit 74E**

- 1 Asthma rates in cities do not *enormously* / *significantly* differ from those in rural areas.
- 2 Now that Lorna has moved to Kuala Lumpur, I *from time to time* / *rarely* see her.
- 3 I could see them *easily* / *scarcely* in the bright sunshine.
- 4 It was snowing and I was *almost* / *by an hour* late for the interview.
- 5 Carmen had *often* / *on many occasions* spoken at meetings before, so it was no surprise when she stood up.
- 6 I play chess with Lorenzo *hardly ever* / *every week*.
- 7 Although he had to lift heavy boxes in the factory, he *greatly* / *rarely* suffered from backache.
- 8 I forgot about the meeting *nearly* / *entirely* and my boss was really angry with me.

75.3 Which of the positions [1], [2] or [3] can the adverb or adverbial in brackets go in? **A-C**

- 1 [1] He [2] moved to New Zealand [3]. (*the following year*)
- 2 [1] The children [2] walked along the road [3]. (*in single file*)
- 3 [1] We [2] see Alex [3] any more. (*seldom*)
- 4 [1] He [2] complained to his physics teacher [3]. (*unhappy with the result*)
- 5 [1] I [2] agree with you [3]. (*entirely*)
- 6 [1] I [2] meet [3] Emma at school. (*often*)