Adverbs are words that describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Adverbs often answer the questions **when? how? where? and to what extent?**

Examples: 

 booths: **Tomorrow**, I will finish my work.  
The adverb **tomorrow** answers the question **“When will I finish my work?”**

 My colleague will **carefully** analyze the data.  
The adverb **carefully** answers the question **“How will my colleague analyze the data?”**

 The audience was **very** quiet during the performance.  
The adverb **very** answers the question **“How quiet was the audience during the performance?”**

 The table should be moved **here**.  
The adverb **here** answers the question **“Where should the table be moved?”**

 We **often** forget to water the plants.  
The adverb **often** answers the question **“To what extent do we forget to water the plants?”**

Although the **-ly** ending usually signifies an adverb, the adverbs with the **-ly** ending should not be confused with adjectives also ending in **-ly**.

Here are some examples of adjectives ending in **-ly** that are not adverbs:

- costly
- worldly
- orderly
- timely
- motherly
- lively
- lonely
- friendly

**Position of Adverbs and Adverbial Phrases**

There is a certain order of placement that adverbs of **time, manner, location** and **direction** are placed in a sentence.

**Adverbs of time** are usually placed at (a) the beginning of the sentence or (b) the end of the sentence when the adverb of time is last in a series of adverbs.

Examples: 

 a) **Yesterday**, I walked.  
 b) I walked **home slowly yesterday**.

**Adverbs of manner** are usually placed (a) **after the verb**, (b) **after the adverb of direction**, or (c) **before the adverbial phrase of location**.

Examples: 

 a) I walked **slowly**.  
 b) I walked **home slowly**.  
 c) I walked **slowly in the park**.

**Adverbs or adverbial phrases of direction and location** are usually placed **after the verb**.

Examples: 

 I walked **home**. (adverb of direction)  
 I walked **in the park**. (adverbial phrase of location)

Adverbs modify not only verbs, but also adjectives and other adverbs.

Examples: 

 I walked at an **extremely slow** pace.  
 The adverb **extremely** modifies the adjective **slow**.  
 I walked **extremely slowly**.
The adverb *extremely* modifies the adverb *slowly*.

### Additional Examples of Adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roughly</th>
<th>Too</th>
<th>Now</th>
<th>Rather</th>
<th>Happily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Seldom</td>
<td>Later</td>
<td>Enough</td>
<td>Decisively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typically</td>
<td>Usually</td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Only</td>
<td>Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Consistently</td>
<td>Always</td>
<td>Soon</td>
<td>Still</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conjunctive Adverbs or Transitional Expressions

Even though conjunctive adverbs are classified as adverbs, they are more closely related to co-ordinate conjunctions. Like co-ordinate conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs connect independent clauses of equal grammatical value to show a transition from one thought to another.

Semicolons are used before conjunctive adverbs that connect independent clauses. See the handouts on comma and semicolon use.

The following sentence contains a conjunctive adverb:

The program was developed for the students; **however**, it was not approved by the committee.