



**CLASS IX & X**  
**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**  
**PART I**  
**LESSON 14**  
**ADVERBS**

**NOTES**

An **Adverb** is a word that generally modifies or qualifies a Verb, an Adjective or another Adverb. Sometimes, an Adverb modifies an entire sentence.

Examples:

- a. He runs **fast**.
- b. He sings **quite** well.
- c. She is **very** beautiful.

**I. Classification of Adverbs:**

Generally, **Adverbs** are of three classes. They are **Simple Adverbs, Interrogative Adverbs and Relative Adverbs**. The vast majority of Adverbs belong to the group of Simple Adverbs. There are a few Interrogative Adverbs and Relative Adverbs.

**a. Simple Adverbs:** When Adverbs qualify a Verb in a simple manner, they simply tell the time, place, manner, degree, reason, etc. of the action indicated by the Verb. That is why they are known as **Simple Adverbs**.

The **Simple Adverbs** have again been divided into **many sub-classes**.

**1. Adverbs of Time:** When Adverbs tell the time of the actions indicated by the Verbs, they are known as **Adverbs of Time**. **Adverbs of Time answer the question 'When?'**

**Example:** The boys play **daily**.

**2. Adverbs of Place:** The **Adverbs of Place** tell the place of the actions indicated by the Verbs. **They answer the question 'Where?'**

**Example:** We live **here**.

**3. Adverbs of Number or Frequency:** The **Adverbs of Number or Frequency** tell the frequency or number of the actions indicated by the Verbs. **They answer the question 'How often?'**

**Example:** We meet here **thrice** a week.



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**4. Adverbs of Degree or Quantity:** The Adverbs of Degree or Quantity indicate the degree or extent or quantity of the actions indicated by the Verbs. They answer the question ‘How much?’ or ‘In what degree?’

**Example:** He is very happy.

**5. Adverb of Manner or Quality:** The Adverbs of Manner or Quality tell the manner or quality of the actions indicated by the Verbs. They answer the question ‘How?’ or ‘In what manner?’ or ‘Of what quality?’

**Example:** The Indian soldiers fought the Chinese invaders well.

**6. Adverbs of Reason:** The Adverbs of Reason indicate the reason for the actions indicated by the Verbs. They answer the question ‘Why?’

**Example:** Hence he did not do the work.

**7. Adverbs of Result:** The Adverbs of Result indicate the result of some actions leading to another action. They answer the question ‘As the result of what?’

**Example:** Consequently, he failed in the examination.

**8. Adverbs of Purpose:** The Adverbs of Purpose indicate the purpose of the actions of the Verbs. They answer the question ‘For what purpose?’

**Example:** You can come so that you are able to see the whole picture.

**9. Adverbs of Affirmation and Negation:** They answer the questions indicated by the Verbs either Affirmatively or Negatively. ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ are often classed as Adverbs but in reality they are Substitute words or Sentence words standing for whole sentences.

**Example:** Do you read every day? No, I do not.

**b. Interrogative Adverbs:** Adverbs which are used in asking questions are called Interrogative Adverbs. When, where, why, how, how much, how far, how soon, how often etc. are Interrogative Adverbs as they are used to ask various types of questions relating to the actions indicated by the Verbs.

**1. Interrogative Adverb of Time**

**Example:** When will he go to school?

**2. Interrogative Adverb of Place**

**Example:** Where is the boy?

**3. Interrogative Adverb of Number**

**Example:** How many boys can help him?

**4. Interrogative Adverb of Quantity**

**Example:** How much did he pay for the books?



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**5. Interrogative Adverb of Degree**

**Example:** How far is the place from here?

**6. Interrogative Adverb of Manner**

**Example:** How did you bring the heavy load?

**7. Interrogative Adverb of Reason**

**Example:** Why did you complain?

**c. Relative Adverbs:** In addition to the function of modifying a Verb, if a word connects two clauses, it is called a **Relative Adverb**.

**Example:** I know the place **where** the murder was committed.

**II. Formation of Adverbs:** There are some ways of forming Adverbs. They are:

**1. By adding *ly***

**Examples:** hourly, slowly, lovingly etc.

**2. By prefixing *a***

**Examples:** abed, ahead, around, alive, ago, agape etc.

**3. By prefixing *be* to certain words**

**Examples:** before, behind, below, beyond etc.

**4. By suffixing *by, forth, in* to certain words**

**Examples:** hereby, herein, henceforth etc.

**5. By combining a Noun and an Adjective**

**Examples:** westward, midday, meantime etc.

**6. By joining two Adverbs with the Conjunction *and***

**Examples:** by and by, far and wide, now and then, off and on etc.

**III. Some words are used both as Adjectives and as Adverbs.**

**Examples:**

**Adjectives**

The boy is an early riser.

He is a fast runner.

It is a long way.

**Adverbs**

He came here early yesterday.

He runs fast.

We waited long.



**IV. Comparison of Adverbs:** Like Adjectives, some Adverbs have three Degrees of Comparison. These three degrees are formed in different ways.

a. If the Adverb is of one syllable, *er* and *est* are added to the Adverb to form Comparative and Superlative degrees.

**Examples:**

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Fast	faster	fastest
late	later	latest

b. If the Adverb ends in *ly*, the **Comparative** and the **Superlative** are formed by adding *more* and *most* respectively.

**Examples:**

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Carefully	more carefully	most carefully
Quickly	more quickly	most quickly

c. A few Adverbs form their degrees of Comparison in an irregular manner.

Examples:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
fast	faster	fastest
badly	worse	worst
little	less	least

**V. Position of Adverbs:** Adverbs are placed in different ways in a sentence.

1. When the Verb is intransitive, the Adverb is placed immediately after it.

Example: He works hard.

2. When the Verb is Transitive with an object following it, the Adverb is placed immediately after the object.

Example: The boy faced the trouble bravely.

3. Adverbs of time like always, never, seldom, sometimes, frequently etc. are placed before the verbs.

Example: I always try to help others.

4. When a verb consists of a Principal Verb and an Auxiliary Verb, the Adverb is placed between the two.

Example: He had surprisingly passed the test.

5. An Adverb is usually placed before an Adjective or another Adverb it modifies.

Example: The boy is very strong.



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6. The Adverb is sometimes placed at the beginning of a sentence either to modify the whole sentence or to give emphasis.

**Example:** Here comes the man.

7. Adverbs of Frequency are placed differently.

a. It is placed before the main Verb.

**Example:** She **never** helps others.

b. It is placed after the *be* Verbs.

**Example:** This boy is **seldom** late.

c. It is placed between the Auxiliary Verb and the Main Verb, in case there is only one Auxilliary Verb and one Main Verb.

**Example:** My brother will **rarely** tell a lie.

d. It is placed before the Auxiliary Verb and the Main Verb, when the action of the Verb is stressed.

**Example:** I **already** have done the work.

8. In the sentences having the Auxiliaries *used to* and *have to* the Adverb is generally put before them.

**Example:** I **always** have to do the work for others.

9. As a general rule, the word *only* is placed immediately before the word it modifies.

**Examples:**

a. He works for **only** two hours.

b. **Only** Tom studies for the test.

## VI. Use of some confusing Adverbs

1. **Too:** *Too* means more than what is good or desirable or required for a specific purpose. It should not be used in the general sense of *very* or *much*. It is usually followed by *to* or *for*.

**Example:** That shirt is **too** costly for me.

2. **Before, ago:** *Before* is used when we date back from any point of time which is made specific. But *ago* is used only when we date back the time of speaking.

**Examples:**

a. I had seen him one month **before** I joined the university.

b. I saw him three years **ago**.



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3. **Free, freely:** Free means **without paying any money or anything**. Freely means **without any difficulty**.

**Examples:**

- a. I did the work for him **free**.
- b. He can go there quite **freely**.

4. **Hard, hardly:** Hard means **very much** but **hardly** means **rarely**.

**Examples:**

- a. He works **hard**.
- b. He **hardly** works.

5. **Late, lately:** Late means **not in time** but **lately** means **recently**.

**Examples:**

- a. He came **late**.
- b. She is not seen **lately**.

6. **Near, nearly:** Near means **not far** but **nearly** means **almost**.

**Examples:**

- a. His house is quite **near** from here.
- b. The play is **nearly** over.

7. **Too much, much too:** Too much is used before a **Noun** while **much too** is used as an **Adverb** before an **Adjective**.

**Examples:**

- a. **Too much** food should not be prepared.
- b. She was **much too** weak to join the match.

8. **Perhaps, probably:** They are used as **Sentence Adverbs**. **Perhaps** expresses **doubt** and **Probably** denotes **likelihood**.

**Examples:**

- a. **Probably**, he is a liar.
- b. **Perhaps**, he is innocent.



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