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Concepts of Adverbs



What are Adverbs?

Adverbs are words that modify verbs, adjectives or even other adverbs used in a sentence. They answer the questions like when? where? how? how much? how often?

Examples-

- Jane **really** likes ice cream.
- He **briefly** spoke with us before leaving for the airport.
- We should work **extremely** hard to get the desired results.

Here, the adverbs used are **really**, **briefly**, and **extremely**.

What are the different types of adverbs?

We generally classify adverbs into six parts-

Conjunctive Adverbs

Conjunctive Adverbs are used to link two independent clauses. These are also called connectors. These include- nonetheless, consequently, however, etc.

Examples-

- Suzan was unwell; **consequently**, she could not finish her work.
- He studied hard; **however**, he could not score well on the test.

Sentence Adverbs

Sentence Adverbs are adverbs used at the beginning of the sentence. They modify the whole sentence. These include- apparently, certainly, definitely, basically, normally, actually, hopefully, etc.

Examples-

- **Apparently**, many guests fell sick after the party.
- **Certainly**, you can work hard to achieve your goals.
- **Hopefully**, our project will qualify for the next level.

Adverbs of time (frequency)

Adverbs of time (frequency) depict the time/ frequency of the action in that particular sentence. These include- always, frequently, eventually, occasionally, once, seldom, never, often etc.

Examples-

- We visit the park quite **often** for a morning walk.
- Johnson goes to the nearby gym **frequently**.
- We bake bread at home **occasionally**.

Adverbs of place (direction)

Adverbs of place (direction) talk about the place and direction of the action in that particular sentence. These include- across, over, under, backward, upstairs, sideways etc.

Examples-

- I went **through** the door of that building.
- She was very tired; hence she was resting **upstairs**.
- The cat plays in the garden **near** our building.

Adverbs of degree (how much)

Adverbs of degree depict the importance, degree or level of action performed in that sentence. These include completely, nearly, hardly, thoroughly, somewhat, entirely etc.

Examples-

- I have **thoroughly** enjoyed reading this book.
- He **hardly** cooks anything for her family members.
- The results are **entirely** different from what we expected.

Adverb of Manner (how)

Adverb of Manner depicts the manner, approach or process of action in that particular sentence. These include carefully, thankfully, quickly, resentfully, nicely, equally etc.

Examples-

- The father divided the cake **equally** among all the children.
- We should handle fragile objects **carefully**.
- A tortoise moves **slowly** as compared to a hare.

Practice Exercise

Fill in the blanks using suitable forms of adverbs. For reference, words are given in parenthesis ().

1. She was __ dressed in her sparkling red dress. (beautifully, slowly)
2. Thomas visits Africa and Korea __. (soon, often)
3. We can rely on her __ as she is trustworthy. (quickly, completely)
4. The storm was quite intense; __ the crops were damaged. (consequently, however)
5. Jerry is indisciplined, and he is __ late for school. (none, always)
6. He kept some old newspapers __ the shelf. (down, over)
7. Some people know how to express their thoughts __. (well, less)
8. The chef prepared an exotic dish __ for the guests. (often, quickly)
9. I __ agree with you. Your suggestion is appropriate. (entirely, nonetheless)
10. The prices of essential goods have been rising; __ it is unlikely that they will continue to rise. (apparently, however)

Answers

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. beautifully | 6. over |
| 2. often | 7. well |
| 3. completely | 8. quickly |
| 4. consequently | 9. entirely |
| 5. always | 10. however |

How to form adverbs from adjectives?

Most of the time, an adverb is formed by adding -ly to the adjectives.

Examples-

- quick becomes **quickly**
- slow becomes **slowly**

The sentences can be framed like this-

- Victoria ran **quickly** to catch the bus.
- Thomas walks very **slowly** as he is unwell.

Some points to remember-

1. **If the adjective ends in -y, we add -ily.**

Examples-

- easy becomes **easily**
- angry becomes **angrily**
- happy becomes **happily**
- lucky becomes **luckily**

The sentences can be framed like this-

- I can do this work **easily**.
- They lived **happily** after settling in a new city.

2. **If the adjective ends in -able, -ible, we add -y in the end.**

Examples-

- probable becomes **probably**
- terrible becomes **terribly**

The sentences can be framed like this-

- We can't **probably** trust her words.
- The painting was **terribly** damaged after he threw water over it.

3. If the adjective ends in **-ic**, we add **-ally** in the end.

Examples-

- basic becomes **basically**
- tragic becomes **tragically**
- economic becomes **economically**

The sentences can be framed like this-

- The neighbouring country was **tragically** affected by floods.
- We need to design **economically** feasible strategies.

Practice Exercise

Fill in the blanks using suitable adverbs. For reference, adjectives are given in parenthesis().

1. She __ handled the glass jar. (careful)
2. The dress was __ damaged from the ink stains. (horrible)
3. The children played __ at the playground. (happy)
4. The presentation was __ created by the employee. (beautiful)
5. The patient looked __ at the doctor. (hopeful)
6. That building was __ significant. (historic)
7. __, I had an alternative plan to escape this situation. (lucky)
8. Some celebrities behave __ with the media people. (angry)
9. She is __ helpful as compared to her family members. (extreme)
10. I was __ mad at him for ruining the plan. (absolute)

Answers

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. carefully | 6. historically |
| 2. horribly | 7. luckily |
| 3. happily | 8. angrily |
| 4. beautifully | 9. extremely |
| 5. hopefully | 10. absolutely |

Some interesting questions related to Adverbs

Do adverbs always end in -ly?

Most of the adverbs end in -ly, however, this is not a thumb rule that is to be followed every time. Examples include- very, never, often, always, etc.

What are adverbs used for?

Adverbs modify verbs, clauses and even other adverbs in a particular sentence.

Examples-

- She **quickly** ran outside to check the source of the strange noise.
- He can **easily** cook any kind of cuisine.

Here, **quickly** and **easily**, tell about the approach to doing something.

How are adverbs used with verbs?

When used with verbs, adverbs give more information about them in terms of intensity, degree, time, place, etc.

Examples-

- Jane **slowly** called out to her child while he was sleeping on the couch.
- My friend **carefully** took the package and delivered it to the concerned person.

Here, the adverbs used are- **slowly**, **carefully**. They are used to give information about verbs.

Can we use adverbs with other adverbs?

Yes, we can use two adverbs in a sentence. The first adverb will give more information about the second.

Examples-

- The tiger runs **very** quickly when he sees his prey.
- Robin speaks **really** softly.



Practice Exercise

Rewrite the following sentences with the correct adverbs.

1. He runs very fastly and has great stamina.
2. The team players played very good which made them win.
3. Rogen hard made any effort to compensate for his mistake.
4. We need to have focus and dedication nonetheless we can't succeed.
5. She felt incredible miserable after that incident.
6. Unfortunate, Jennifer could not win the match as she was unwell.
7. Surprise, they could make it to the next level.
8. He ease solved this difficult puzzle without anyone's help.
9. My mother gentle placed the glass vase on the table.
10. The blue car got terrible damaged after the accident.

Answers

1. He runs very fast and has great stamina.
2. The team players played very well which made them win.
3. Rogen hardly made any effort to compensate for his mistake.
4. We need to have focus and dedication otherwise we can't succeed.
5. She felt incredibly miserable after that incident.
6. Unfortunately, Jennifer could not win the match as she got unwell.
7. Surprisingly, they could make it to the next level.
8. He easily solved this difficult puzzle without anyone's help.
9. My mother gently placed the glass vase on the table.
10. The blue car got terribly damaged after the accident.

Make correct and complete sentences from the jumbled words given below.

1. Is/ she/ shy/ somewhat/ it/ when/ to/ comes/ new/ meeting/ people
2. Can/ we/ for/ go/ a/ quickly/ walk/ after/ dinner
3. Looked/ Maria/ pretty/ extremely/ the/ at/ party/ yesterday
4. Decided/ we/ have/ to/ the/ outside/ dinner
5. Naughty/ the/ behaved/ kid/ badly/ everyone/ with
6. Hannah/ both/ her/ and/ brother/ very/ tried/ hard/ could/ unfortunately/ not/ good/ score/ marks/they
7. Can/ you/ this/ buy/ necklace/ it/ however/ is/ expensive/ quite/ pearl
8. Employees/ the/ reluctantly/ the/ accepted/ new/ guidelines
9. Visits/ she/ place/ this/ often
10. Am/dinner/I/set/you/meanwhile/making/the/table/can

Answers

1. She is somewhat shy when it comes to meeting new people.
2. We can go for a walk quickly after dinner.
3. Maria looked extremely pretty at the party yesterday.
4. We decided to have dinner outside.
5. The naughty kid behaved badly with everyone.
6. Both Hannah and her brother tried very hard; unfortunately, they could not score good marks.
7. You can buy this pearl necklace; however, it is quite expensive.
8. The employees reluctantly accepted the new guidelines.
9. She visits this place often.
10. I am making dinner; meanwhile you can set the table.



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