**Module** : Grammar **Mohamed Khider University**

**Level** : First year LMD

**Lesson one** : Parts of Speech

1. **Adverbs**

An adverb is a word that modifies (qualifies or limits) verbs, adjectives, other adverbs or groups of words. **e.g**.- He reads **carefully**. ( *carefully* modifies the verb *reads*)

- He is **truly** dedicated. (*truly* modifies the adjective *dedicated*)

- He walks **too** *quickly.(too* modifies the adverb *quickly*)

- **Unfortunately**, I cannot attend the wedding. (*unfortunately* modifies *the sentence*)

**Formation of adverbs**

Many adverbs are formed from adjectives. Many adverbs end in *- ly*. It is the case of adverbs of manner + some adverbs of degree.

* If the adjective ends in **–y**,replace it with **–i** and then add **–ly**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **adjective** | **adverb** |
| happy | happily |
| angry | angrily |
| lucky | luckily |

* If the adjective ends in **–able**, **-ible**, or **–le**, replace the **e** with **–y**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **adjective** | **adverb** |
| probable | probably |
| gentle | gently |
| humble | humbly |

* If the adjective ends in **–ic**, add **–ally**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **adjective** | **adverb** |
| basic | basically |
| economic | economically |

**BUT** → publ**ic** → publi**cly**

* **Irregular adverbs**

Most adverbs are formed by adding **–ly** to an adjective. However, there are some irregular adverbs :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **adjective** | **adverb** |
| good | well |
| fast | fast |
| hard | hard |
| late | late |
| early | early |
| daily | daily |

* nic**e** → nic**e**ly immediate → immediat**e**ly extrem**e** → extrem**e**ly

***BUT*** tru**e** → tru**ly** du**e** → du**ly** whol**e** → who**lly**

**NOTE :** not all words ending in *-****ly*** or ***-lly*** are adverbs : silly, friendly, likely, lonely, lovely.

These are adjectives and have no adverb form. To supply this deficiency, we use a similar adverb or an adverb phrase.

***e.g.*** *My dog is very friendly. He behaves in a* ***friendly way.***

**Kinds and position of Adverbs**

1. **Adverbs of manner :** Tell **how** something happens**:** fast, hard, well, quickly, slowly, kindly, happily, angrily, clearly, patiently, generously….

→ They are usually placed after the main verb or after the object.

*He swims* ***fast****. She sings the song* ***beautifully****.*

*The child ran* ***happily*** *towards his mother.*

1. **Adverbs of place :** Tell **where** something happens :  here, there, up, down, near, far, away, right, left, west, south, southwards, downstairs, outside, indoors, inside, anywhere, everywhere, somewhere, nowhere, elsewhere, home, in, off, on, over,……

→ They are usually placed after the main verb or after the object.

*The students are walking* ***home****. He threw the ball* ***downstairs****. Come* ***here****!*

*I would like to go* ***somewhere*** *warm for my vacation.*

*→* Here and there are combined with prepositions to make many common adverbial phrases. **e.g.** *Come* ***over here*** *and look what I found ! What are you doing* ***up there****?*

**→** Most common adverbs of place also function as prepositions.

1. **Adverbs of time :**Tell **when** something happens, and **for how long** : now, soon, still, today, yesterday, tomorrow, tonight, early, late, recently, currently, after, before, afterwards, yet, then, just, immediately, next, all day, not long,…….

→The use of adverbs of time might affect the verb tenses in a particular clause and can be placed at the initial, middle or final position of a clause.

* *She* ***currently*** *works as a news caster.* (present tense)
* *My father is* ***currently*** *working with the press.*
* *She went to school* ***yesterday.*** (past tense)
* *I will finish doing my work* ***tomorrow***. (future tense)

1. **Adverbs of frequency :** Tell **how often/ how many times** something happens : once, twice, often , rarely, never, ever, always, usually, occasionally, seldom, sometimes, daily, everyday, monthly, annually, …

**→** They can be placed at the initial, middle or final position of a clause.

* ***Occasionally****, culture interferes with business.* ***Once*** *is fine, but* ***twice*** *is not.*
* *You should* ***always*** *think about your future.*
* *She cleans her room* ***daily.***

1. **Adverbs of certainty :** Express **how certain or sure** we feel about an action or event : certainly, surely, obviously, definitely, probably, undoubtedly, ….

**→** They are placed before the main verb, but they come after ‘to be’, or between the auxiliary and the main verb.

* *She* ***definitely*** *left the house on October 1998.*
* *She is* ***probably*** *in Paris.*
* *She has* ***certainly*** *forgotten my birthday.*

1. **Adverbs of degree :** Tell about **the intensity or degree** of an action, an adjective or another adverb : very, fairly, rather, too, totally, so, almost, just, nearly, quite, hardly, much, enough, completely, partially, extremely, such, even, pretty, only …

**→** They are placed before the adjective or adverb they are modifying, after an auxiliary, before the main verb or between the auxiliary and the main verb.

*He is* ***really*** *good. She* ***almost*** *noticed his presence.*

*They don’t* ***really*** *know you. He played* ***very*** *badly.*

1. **Adverbs of opinion :** Tell about the **speaker’s opinion/point of view** about an action : frankly, ideally, officially, personally, obviously, theoretically, honestly, seriously, …

**→** They are usually placed at the beginning and are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

* ***Personally,*** *I can’t do what she had done.*

1. **Interrogative adverbs :** Are used **to ask questions** : when, where, why, how.

**→** They are placed at the beginning and are always followed by the main verb.

* **When** will she come ?
* **Where** do you come from ?
* **Why** have you said that ?
* **How** is your father ?

**NOTE :** In English, the adverb does not come between the main verb and the direct object.

*My brother cleans* ***never*** *his room. → My brother* ***never*** *cleans his room.*

***Practice****:*

**Rewrite the sentences placing the adverb in its correct position**

1. Mary goes shopping to the mall. (usually ) ………………………………………………………………………………
2. Amalia helps her parents with the housework. (sometimes) ……………………………………………………………..
3. Mike and his sister are fighting for the remote. (always) …………………………………………………………………
4. Are they going ? (away) ………………………………………………………………………………
5. We are late to school. (never) ………………………………………………………………………………
6. The program was unrealistic. (too) ………………………………………………………………………………
7. Have you been to Mexico City before ? (ever) …………………………………………………………………………

**Order of adverbs when together**

There is a basis order in which adverbs will appear when there is more than one.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **verb** | **manner** | **place** | **frequency** | **time** |
| Beth swims | enthusiastically | in the pool | every morning | before dawn |
| Dad walks | impatiently | into town | every afternoon | before supper |

Of course, it is uncommon to four five adverbs in a row to modify the same word, but if a sentence uses two or three, then it is best to follow this order to avoid sounding unnatural.

**Adverbs or adjective ?**

*Adjectives* describe nouns and pronouns. Adverbs do not. *Adverbs* describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adjectives do not.

**e.g** : - *Helen has a* ***yearly*** *membership at the local health club*. ( *Yearly* is an adjective since it modifies the noun *membership* and tells *which* membership.)

- *Helen contributes* ***yearly***. ( *Yearly* is an adverb since it modifies the verb *contributes* and answers the question, ***When*** *does Helen contribute ?*)

-*Mike arrived* ***late*** *. -The* ***late*** *delivery cut down on sales in the supermarket.*

→ Other words that can be used either as adjs or adverbs are : **hard, fast, deep, early, near, far, high, little, few, much, many, loud, low, overhead, underground,** …

**Let’s Practice**

**Find the adjective in the first sentence and fill the gap with the adverb.**

1. Joanne is happy. She smiles 
2. The boy is loud. He shouts .
3. Her English is fluent. She speaks English .
4. Our mum was angry. She spoke to us .
5. My neighbour is a careless driver. He drives .
6. The painter is awful. He paints .
7. Jim is a wonderful piano player. He plays the piano .
8. This girl is very quiet. She often sneaks out of the house .
9. She is a good dancer. She dances really .
10. This exercise is simple. You have to put one word in each space.

**Comparison of adverbs**

There are three forms: positive – comparative – superlative

* **We use –er /-est** with **all adverbs of one syllable:** Fast – fast**er** than – the fast**est** Hard – hard**er** – the hard**est**

High – high**er** – the high**est**

**+ the adverb early :** earl**ier – the** earl**iest**

* **We use more –most with adverbs of 2 or more syllables (adverbs ending in –ly not early)**

**carefully – more carefully – (the) most carefully**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| well | better | best |
| badly | worse | worst |
| much | more | most |
| little | little | least |
| late | later | latest |
| far | Farther  further | Farthest  furthest |

* **Irregular adverbs**

**Practice: Complete the following sentences with the correct form (comparative or superlative) of the adverbs provided.**

1. He arrived \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than expected. (early)
2. We walked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the rest of the people. (slowly)
3. They called us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the afternoon. (late)
4. He hit his arm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than before. (hard)
5. The Spanish athlete ran \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the other runners. (fast)
6. Jim threw the ball \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than Peter. (far)
7. We answered all the questions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the other students. (well)
8. Our new teacher explains the exercises \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than our old teacher. (badly)
9. The new mechanic checked the car \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the old mechanic. (thoroughly)
10. Angela works \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than my husband. (hard)