

## Order of Adverbs in a Sentence

### Introduction

1) An adverb is a word or set of words that modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Usually adverbs modify verbs, telling us how, how often, when, or where something was done.

*We walked **really slowly**.*

2) As adverbs are used to modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, phrases, clauses, or even entire sentences, they are able to function nearly anywhere in the sentence, depending on their type and what it is they are modifying.

If we use more than one adverb to describe a verb, there is a general order in which the different categories of adverbs should appear (sometimes called **the royal order of adverbs**):

*1. manner, 2. place, 3. frequency, 4. time, 5. purpose.*

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

Adverbs of manner tell us how something happens, how someone does something, or give character to a description.

*Alice sings **beautifully**.*

Adverbs of place tell us about an aspect of location associated with the action of a verb, specifying the direction, distance, movement, or position involved in the action.

*We looked **upwards** at the fireworks.*

Adverbs of frequency tell us how often something happens.

*Peter goes abroad **twice a year**.*

Adverbs of time tell us when or for how long something happens or is the case.

*They've been dating **for 4 years**.*

Adverbs of purpose tell us why something happens.

The dress is handcrafted and **hence expensive**.

Adverbs indicating the attitude and point of view of the speaker or writer usually go at the beginning. These adverbs are called sentence adverbs because they refer to the whole sentence or utterance.

**Actually**, I don't want to go there.

### Short Story Dialogue

– We **hardly ever** meet up! When are you free **this weekend**?

– **Honestly**, I don't know. We have a huge project **at work** and my boss wants everything to be perfect. So as you can imagine, we are working **overtime**.

– **Gosh**, that doesn't sound great. Do sleep **8 hours a day at least**?

– I **usually** sleep **5 hours a day**. I **also** need to do some household chores **to keep my place clean**. I'll give you a call **next week**, OK?

**Independent Practice - Order of Adverbs in a Sentence**

**1) Which of the following is an adverb/adverbial phrase of:**

<i>manner</i>	<i>place</i>	<i>frequency</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>purpose</i>
---------------	--------------	------------------	-------------	----------------

- a. at 7 o'clock in the morning
- b. to be more healthy
- c. annually
- d. in the worst way possible
- e. at the park

**2) Restore the word order in the following sentences.**

a. (My little brother/as he can be with his friends/to like/to go to school).	..... .....
b. (The lady/to me/in/to talk/a friendly manner).	..... .....
c. (Honestly/we/can afford/I/not to think/a vacation abroad/this year).	..... .....
d. (Sam/to get up/at weekends/late/usually).	..... .....
e. (I/at 6 o'clock/to go/every morning/for a run).	..... .....

---

## Independent Practice: Answers - Order of Adverbs in a Sentence

### 1) Which of the following is an adverb/adverbial phrase of:

- a. at 7 o'clock in the morning – time
- b. to be more healthy – purpose
- c. annually – frequency
- d. in the worst way possible – manner
- e. at the park – place

### 2) Restore the word order in the following sentences.

- a. My little brother likes going to school as he can be with his friends.
- b. The lady talked to me in a friendly manner.
- c. Honestly, I don't think we can afford a vacation abroad this year.
- d. Sam usually gets up late at weekends.
- e. I go for a run every morning at 6 o'clock.