Adverbs

Let’s read the story together, and underline the adverbs if we know them.

The Old Man and the Sea

The old man’s name is Santiago and his only friend is a young boy called Manolin, who also lives in the small fishing village near Havana, Cuba. The boy used to go fishing with the old man until his parents stopped him because Santiago was regarded as “unlucky”. Having not caught a fish for the last 84 days, Santiago sets out alone one morning…

When he leaves the harbour it is still dark and he rows so far away that he cannot see the coast anymore. He starts talking to himself about nature and the beauty of the sea. He admits, "If the others heard me talking out loud they would think that I am crazy…But since I am not crazy, I do not care." While he thinks or even meditates he sees that a fish is taking the bait on one of the lines. After a while he starts to pull the fish up, but this is not really possible because the fish is too heavy; but very surprisingly the fish starts to pull the boat further and further out to the sea. The fish continues pulling for hours until the sun goes down and during the whole night; it seems to be a very strong fish. Just before sunrise on the second day Santiago begins to pity the fish. "He is wonderful and strange and who knows how old he is." The old man is uncertain whether he should kill the fish or whether he should leave it. He also calls the fish "his brother" and reveals that he loves and respects the fish.

Suddenly Santiago notices that the fish slows its speed; it finally jumps out of the water and he sees that it is a marlin, which is even longer than his boat. The fish is 5.40 m long and 340 kg heavy. The old man wishes that the boy were there to help him by killing the fish because his health is deteriorating. He repeats, "If the boy were here, if the boy were here." He feels very lonely and recognizes that the fish is much, much stronger than he himself is. "Man is not much besides the great birds and beasts. Still I would rather be that beast down there in the darkness of the sea unless sharks come. If sharks come, God pity him and me." And by saying this, the old man reveals that he is afraid of sharks.

It is evening and the old man sleeps a bit, but he is wakened because the fish jumps out of the water for more than 12 times. When the sun rises, the third day has started and the fish begins to circle the boat. The old man’s state of mind
deteriorates, because he has not eaten anything for a long time. He feels dizzy and he is close to a physical and mental breakdown. Finally, when the fish is close enough, the old man takes his harpoon and kills it. Having killed the fish Santiago attaches the marlin to the outside of the boat and starts to sail home.

But only a short time afterwards sharks come, attracted by the blood from the heart of the fish. Santiago tries to defend the fish, but the sharks are much stronger. They eat up the flesh of the fish. In this situation Santiago is described in the following way: "He did not like to look at the fish anymore since he had been mutilated. When the fish had been hit it was as though he himself were hit." This description shows how proud he was to have caught such a beautiful and big fish; a parallel could be drawn between Santiago and the fish. The old man identifies with the fish and with his "death". Nothing of the fish is left except its skeleton. The few tools the old man had broke during his fight against the sharks. So there was absolutely no way of defending the fish.

The old man finally arrives at the harbour at the third day of his journey. It is night and the old man goes to bed. The next morning Manolin comes and visits him, but before that the boy had already been to the harbour and he had also seen the skeleton of the big fish. When the boy sees the old man he starts to cry. He tells Santiago that the coast guard and even airplanes had been searching for him. The boy also promises that they will go fishing together again.

By Ernest Hemingway
1. **Definition & Kinds of Adverbs**

Adverbs are words like tomorrow, daily, badly, once and too. They tell us more about other words, especially verbs.

**Examples**

The child smiled **sweetly**. (sweetly modifies the verb smiled.)

She walked **slowly**. (slowly modifies the verb walked.)

He talked **politely**. (politely modifies the verb talked.)

2. Sometimes **adverbs** modify **adjectives**.

**Examples**

It was a **very important** question. (very modifies the adjective important.)

You are so **sweet**. (so modifies the adjective sweet.)

3. **Adverbs** can also modify other **adverbs**.

He walked **very slowly**. (very modifies the adverb slowly.)

She sang **extremely well**. (extremely modifies the adverb well.)

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**Adverbs of manner**

answer "How?"

such as: carefully, badly, quickly, in a friendly way

The truck moved **slowly**

you must pick the glass up very **carefully**.

**Adverbs of place**

answer "Where?"

(location or direction)

such as: in Algiers, to Algeria, abroad, downstairs, underneath, over here

She’s working **inside**

Ann is staying **abroad**.

**Adverbs of time**

answer "When?"

such as: on Saturday, for a long time, now, eventually

We’ll go to the park **tomorrow**.

Jane will meet you on **Saturday**.

**Adverbs of frequency**

answer the question 'How many?'

such as: always, often, sometimes, twice a week, monthly, again

*Once* is fine, but *twice* is not.

I *often* meet Laura in the park.

**Adverbs of degree**

answer the question ‘To what degree?’

such as: almost, a bit, quite, hardly, very much, only, even

I went to bed *early*. I was *really* tired

I *quite* like that dress.

**Sentence adverbs**

modify the whole sentence

such as: obviously, definitely, presumably, probably, naturally

the new system is **definitely** an improvement on the old one.

**Hopefully**, I will be there before 10 o’clock.

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**Let’s practice:** classify the underlined adverbs in above the text according to the types you have learned
## 2. Position of adverbs

Adverbs come in various places in the sentence. There are basically three positions:

- **Front position**: `adverb + subject (+auxiliary) main verb (+object)`
- **Mid-position**: `subject (+auxiliary) adverb main verb (+object)`
- **End-position**: `subject (+auxiliary) main verb (+object) adverb`

### Front position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverb</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Main Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suddenly</td>
<td>the car</td>
<td>stopped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The adverb comes **before the subject**

### Mid-position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
<th>Main Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the sun</td>
<td>always</td>
<td>rises in the east.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The adverb comes **between the subject and the verb**

### End-position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Main Verb</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>shouted</td>
<td></td>
<td>angrily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina</td>
<td>opened</td>
<td>the door</td>
<td>quietly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The adverb comes **after the main verb (+object)**

- **Adverbs of manner** such as beautifully, carefully, politely, quickly, quietly, and well usually go in end-position:
  - Helen draws and paints beautifully.
  - The guide answered the questions politely.

- 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.
My cousin speaks well French.      // My cousin speaks French well.
```

### Let's practice (01)

Which of the following sentences is correct?

1. Never
   a) I have never seen a whale.
   b) I never have seen a whale.
   c) Never I have seen a whale.

2. Seldom
   a) I am seldom late for work.
   b) Seldom I am late for work.
   c) I seldom am late for work.

3. Always
   a) I get up early always.
   b) Always I get up early.
   c) I always get up early.

4. Sometimes
   a) It sometimes gets very windy here.
   b) Sometimes it gets very windy here.

5. Often
   a) My boss is often bad-tempered.
   b) My boss often is bad-tempered.

6. Usually
   a) I usually get up early.
   b) Usually I get up early.

7. Occasionally
   a) I occasionally go there.
   b) I go there occasionally.

8. Still
   a) Still I work.
   b) I still work.

9. Just
   a) She just has gone out.
   b) She has just gone out.
   c) She has gone out just.

### 3. Order of adverbs when together

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Manner</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth swims</td>
<td>enthusiastically</td>
<td>in the pool</td>
<td>every morning</td>
<td>before dawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dad walks</td>
<td>impatiently</td>
<td>into town</td>
<td>every afternoon</td>
<td>before supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tashonda naps</td>
<td></td>
<td>in her room</td>
<td>every morning</td>
<td>before lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Let’s practice (C2): put the adverbs in the box onto the scale in the correct order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Always</th>
<th>occasionally</th>
<th>sometimes</th>
<th>Hardly ever</th>
<th>often</th>
<th>usually</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. ........................................ 2. ........................................ 3. ........................................ 4. ........................................ 5. ........................................ 6. ........................................

100%  

4. Formation of adverbs

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>happy</td>
<td>happily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angry</td>
<td>angrily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lucky</td>
<td>luckily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If the adjective ends in -ic, add -ally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>basic</td>
<td>Basically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economic</td>
<td>economically</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This rule, however, has an exception. The adverb formed from public is publicly, and not publically.

- Irregular adverbs

Most adverbs are formed by adding -ly to an adjective (e.g. slow - slowly). However, there are some irregular adverbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fast</td>
<td>fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard</td>
<td>hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>late</td>
<td>late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early</td>
<td>early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>daily</td>
<td>daily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s practice (C3): Rewrite the following adjectives as adverbs.

1. slow ______
2. cool ______
3. beautiful ______
4. comfortable ______
5. strong ______
6. wise ______
7. tidy ______
8. quiet ______
9. brave ______
10. merry ______
11. soft ______
12. busy ______

5. Comparison of adverbs

There are three forms:

- positive
- comparative
- superlative

A - Comparison with -er/-est
hard - harder - (the) hardest
We use -er/-est with the following adverbs:
1) all adverbs with one syllable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fast</th>
<th>faster</th>
<th>fastest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>higher</td>
<td>highest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) The adverb: early

B - Comparison with more - most
carefully - more carefully - (the) most carefully
adverbs ending on -ly (not: early)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Well</th>
<th>better</th>
<th>best</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badly</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much</td>
<td>more</td>
<td>most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little</td>
<td>less</td>
<td>least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>later</td>
<td>last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far</td>
<td>farther</td>
<td>farthest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C - Irregular adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Well</th>
<th>better</th>
<th>best</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>more</td>
<td>most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little</td>
<td>less</td>
<td>least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>later</td>
<td>last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far</td>
<td>further</td>
<td>furthest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s practice (C4): Fill in the blank with the correct comparative form of the adverb (in parentheses):

EX: He is singing more loudly than the other singers. (loudly)

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)