



*THE  
ADVERB*

# The Adverb

---

The Adverb is the part of speech which determines the character of the action. Semantically adverbs fall into some groups.

<b>Place</b>	here, there, away, far
<b>Time and frequency</b>	now, then, again, always, still, today, once, twice, never, ago, ever, just, yesterday, already, sometimes, yet, later, often, usually
<b>Manner</b>	together, well, fast, hard, quietly
<b>Degree</b>	very, really, too, quite, exactly, right, pretty, more, relatively, slightly, almost, thoroughly, completely, basically
<b>Stance</b> ( <i>your attitude towards what is said</i> )	absolutely, of course, probably, really, actually, mainly, (un)fortunately, curiously, frankly, honestly, seriously, personally, surely, worryingly, interestingly, etc.



# CATEGORY OF ADVERB

1. **Simple adverbs** are single words that are not formed from compounds. Here belong *well*, *too*, *rather*, *quite*, *soon*, and *here*. Some simple adverbs are clearly related to other word classes: *fast* and *long* can be adjectives; *down* and *round* can be used as prepositions; *today* and *tomorrow* can be used as nouns. Some simple adverbs originated as compounds, but the independent meaning of the two parts is no longer transparent (e.g. *already*, *indeed*).



2. **Compound adverbs** are formed by combining two or more elements into a single word. Here belong such adverbs as *anyway* (*any* + *way*), *nowhere* (*no* + *where*), and *heretofore* (*here* + *to* + *fore*).

3. **Adverbs derived by suffixation** are formed by adding the suffix *-ly* to the base form of an adjective:

clear — *clearly*, happy — *happily*, exact — *exactly*,  
lucky — *luckily*, glad — *gladly*, real — *really*.

He was fundamentally stupid.

English spelling is notoriously difficult.

Henry is in love with Bianca. Hopelessly, helplessly,  
mindlessly, gloriously, magnificently.

He turns round smiling cheesily.

Two other common suffixes are *-wise* and *-wards* (added to some nouns and prepositions).

*homewards, seawards, onwards, afterwards, likewise,  
clockwise*





4. **Fixed phrases** such as *of course, kind of, at last*.

Some words ending in *-ly* are adjectives, not adverbs:

*lovely, lonely, lively, friendly, manly, womanly, daily, monthly.*

Compare the following:

They are **friendly** (adj.) people.

They greeted us **in a friendly** (adv. mod.) **way**.

The adverbs *hard, high, fast, early, late, long, far, little, much, straight, near, wrong*, coincide with the corresponding adjectives.

Compare:

It's **hard** (adj.) work. — They work **hard** (adv.).

These are **fast** (adj.) cars. — They drive **fast** (adv.).

We took an **early** (adj.) train. — The train arrived **early**. (adv.)



Adverbs have degrees of comparison: *the positive degree*, *the comparative degree*, and *the superlative degree*. Adverbs ending in *-ly* form their degrees *analytically*, by adding the words *more (less)* or *most (least)* to the base form of the adverb.

**Simple adverbs** form their degrees with the help of the inflections *-er, -est*. Superlative forms are very rarely used with adverbs, while comparative forms are occasionally used.

I just kept working **harder** and **harder**.

Now he went **oftener** to visit his friends.

You really ought to go out **more often**.



In some cases an adverb can be made comparative in both ways:

oftener — more often

All the registers tend to use ***more often*** when the adverb is followed by ***than***:

She went to the theater **more often** now **than** she used to.



The following adverbs have irregular degrees of comparison:

far { — farther — farthest  
— further — furthest

well — better — best

badly — worse — worst

little — less — least

much — more — most

