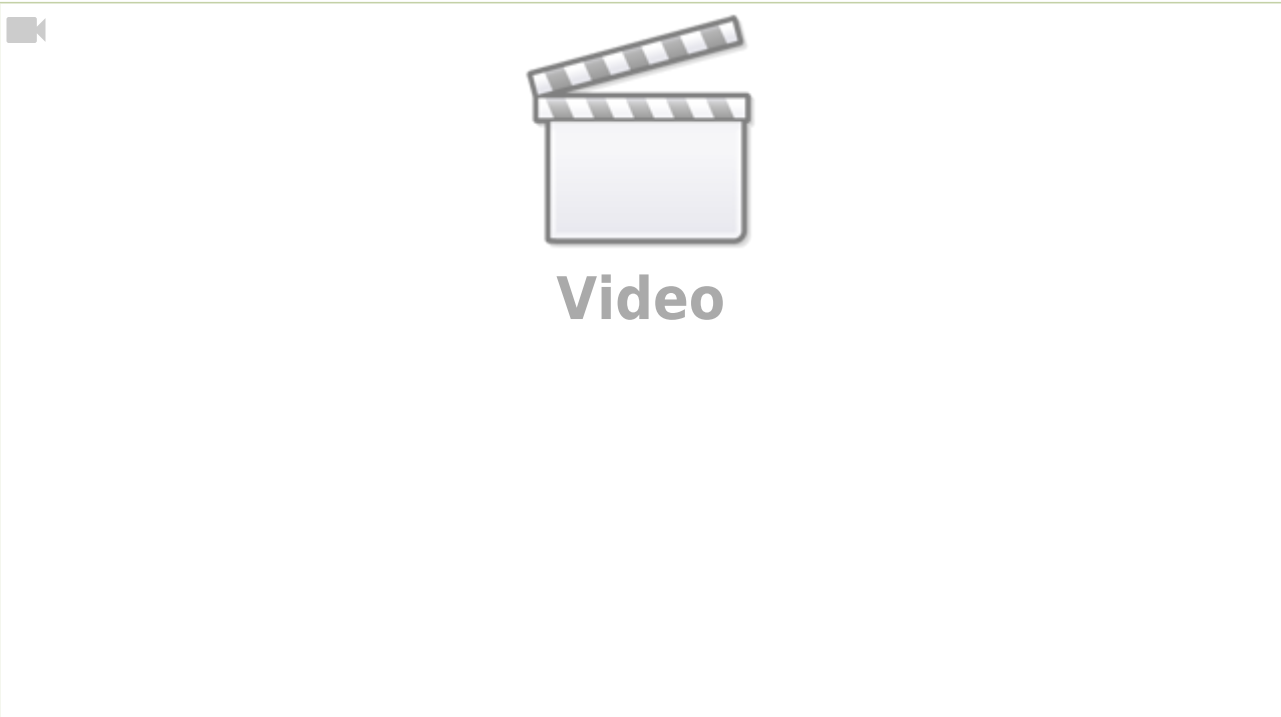


Positions of adverbs



There are **3 positions** for adverbs in a sentence:

- front position (at the beginning of a sentence)
- end position (at the end of a sentence)
- mid-position (in the middle of a sentence).

front position

| | adverb | subject | (auxiliary 1) | (auxiliary 2) | main verb | (object) |
|----|----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Suddenly, | the man | | | saw | the house. |
| 2. | Surprisingly, | our bird | could | | speak | (French.) |
| 3. | Finally, | the speaker | | | ended | his presentation. |



Usually in front position: sentence adverbs (examples 1 and 2) and linking adverbs (example 3)



NB! Many other types of adverbs can go in front position if they are emphasized!

end position

| | subject | (auxiliary 1) | (auxiliary 2) | main verb | (object) | adverb |
|----|---------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| 1. | I | | | shouted | (at her) | angrily. |

| | subject | (auxiliary 1) | (auxiliary 2) | main verb | (object) | adverb |
|----|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 2. | My sister | | | is sleeping | | in the garden |
| 3. | Mary | will | be | sleeping | | at ten o'clock |
| 4. | She | has | | called | him | twice. |



Usually in end position: adverbs of manner (example 1), place (example 2), definite time (example 3) and definite frequency (example 4).



NB!: Many other types of adverbs can go in end position if they are emphasized!

More than one adverb in end position

For more than one adverb in end position the rule is:

- manner → place → time
and
- more specific → more general.

| | | manner | place | time |
|----|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Jason is flying | | to New York | at 8 o'clock on Saturday. |
| 2. | Gina behaved | strangely | at the party | last night. |

mid-position

For adverbs in mid position, there are **three basic rules**:

(A) The adverb goes between subject and verb.

| | subject | adverb | main verb | object |
|----|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | We | often | go | to the disco. |
| 2. | The sun | always | rises | in the east. |

(B) If the verb is a form of »to be«, the adverb comes after the form of »to be«.

| | subject | main verb | adverb | object |
|----|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Mary | is | often | at home. |
| 2. | Chris | is | sometimes | nervous before tests. |

(C) If there is one auxiliary or more, the adverb comes after the first auxiliary.

| | subject | auxiliary 1 | adverb | (auxiliary 2) | main verb | object |
|----|----------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Mary | has | just | been | called | to the doctor. |

| | subject | auxiliary 1 | adverb | (auxiliary 2) | main verb | object |
|----|----------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2. | People | will | always | | eat | chocolate. |
| 3. | Our parents | are | soon | going to | leave | the house. |



Usually in mid-position: short adverbs of indefinite time (examples C.1 and C.3), adverbs of indefinite frequency (all other examples).

[english](#), [grammar](#), [examples](#)