

ADVERBS

Adverbs describe the verb, an adjective, another verb or a phrase.

Adverbs are normally, but not always, formed from the adjective + -ly:

quickly, positively, decisively, arrogantly, nervously, secretly, stupidly, incorrectly, badly...

- I speak *slowly/eloquently/fast/well* ...
- You talk *rubbish/nonsense*.

Adverbs without -ly include: free, wide, deep, just, most, high, direct, short...

- I offer the first 15 minutes *free*. (at no cost)
- Clients never arrive *late* for my sessions. (after the agreed time)
- We dig *deep* into our pockets to help refugees. (to make an effort)
- British Airways flies *direct* to Sydney from London. (no flight transfer)
- Which day of the week do you like *most*? (better)
- The meeting was cut *short* because of time constraints. (finished early)
- My eyes are *wide* open. (totally)

Compare:

- I gave the session *freely*. (with pleasure)
- I'm getting many clients *lately*. (recently)
- I was *deeply* affected by the TV images of the migrant crisis. (much)
- This affects me *directly*. (personally)
- I *mostly* go skiing within Austria. (mainly)
- The train will be arriving *shortly* on platform 2. (soon)
- It is *widely* known that English 4 Professionals has excellent trainers. (well)

We use **adverbs** before adjectives:

- The book is *reasonably* expensive/good/heavy. (adverb + adjective)
- I am *really* sorry/silly/hot. (adverb + adjective)
- I am *incredibly* tired/cold/bored. (adverb + adjective)

We use **adverbs** before other adverbs:

- You speak *quite/very/too/so* quickly. (adverb + adverb)

ENGLISH 4 PROFESSIONALS
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English 4 Professionals Englischunterricht GmbH., Firmensitz: Ratschkygasse 22/2/23, 1120 Wien
Office: Europaplatz 2, 1150 Westbahnhof, Wien + 43 699 121 500 75 info@e4p.at www.e4p.at
FN. 407742 x UID: ATU68334545, Handelsgericht: Wien, Sitz: Wien
Bank Austria, Schönbrunner Straße 263, BIC: BKAUATWW IBAN: AT06 1200 0100 0546 3541



- The presentation went *surprisingly* well/fast/badly. (adverb + adverb)

We can use an **adverb** before a past participle:

- The refugees were *extremely* tired after their long journey.
- The meeting was *hastily* organised.
- The product was *poorly* designed.
- The report was *well* written.
- The interview was *badly* conducted.
- I like my steak *well* done.
- *Well* said, my friend!

We can also use an **adverb** before a phrase (a phrase does not contain a verb):

- Stuart lives *just* over the bridge.
- He told me about it *only* the other day.

Connecting, or conjunctive, adverbs: consequently, therefore, otherwise, meanwhile, similarly, as a result, besides, hence, namely, still, rather, undoubtedly, next, instead, also... We must meet our targets; *otherwise*, we may not be sitting here this time next year.

Time adverbs: today, tonight, now, later, often, already... You are wonderful *tonight*.

Place and direction adverbs: nearby, downstairs, in, out, inside, somewhere, anywhere, everywhere, backwards, forwards, out of... Why are we going *backwards*?

Comment adverbs: rightly, wrongly, certainly, obviously, undoubtedly, naturally, apparently, astonishingly, stupidly, unbelievably, sadly, clearly, frankly, honestly, generally, luckily, kindly, generously, wisely, carelessly, foolishly, personally... It's *unbelievably* true.

Frequency adverbs: always, often, regularly, occasionally, daily, rarely, seldom, hardly ever, never... I *hardly ever* find the time to learn English.

Degree adverbs: very, greatly, entirely, really, completely, quite, nearly, almost, slightly, hardly, too, much, very much, extremely... I *greatly* appreciate your advice.

Focus adverbs: especially, even, mainly, particularly, specifically, only, just, just even, just now, even so, simply, solely... (focussing on a word or phrase). I *specifically* said not to do it.

Extracts from: **English Grammar in Use**, Raymond Murphy, 2012, Cambridge/Klett, **Eats, shoots & leaves**, Lynne Truss, 2003. Profile books ltd and **Correct English**, J.E. Metcalfe and C. Astel, Clarion books.

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