

Adverbs

I) Building adverbs

A. Most adverbs are formed from the adjective. One adds the ending "-ly" to the adjectival form: intelligent --> intelligently, slow --> slowly, precise --> precisely

B. If the adjective ends with "-le," simply replace the "e" with "y": simple --> simply, subtle --> subtly,

C. The adverb corresponding to the adjective "good" is irregular: good --> well

D. Some adverbs have the same form as the adjective: high, low, hard, better, fast

E. In general, adverbs of time and space have no corresponding adjective; the same can be said of adverbs of quantity: yesterday, today, tomorrow, early, soon, late, here, there, less, more, as, very, much, a lot of, little of

II) Where?

A. When an adverb modifies a verb, it generally comes at the end of the clause (but before any prepositional phrases or subordinated clauses):

He writes **poorly**. She pronounced that word **well**. Joseph worked **diligently**. They worked **hard** before coming home.

Exceptions: a few adverbs telling the speaker's opinion, such as "probably," "undoubtedly," "surely," "certainly," etc., come at the beginning of the sentence, or between the modal verb (or auxiliary) and the principal verb:

We are **probably** going to spend the summer in Corsica. **Certainly** we would never do that! We will **undoubtedly** see a dirty political campaign this year.

B. Adverbs of time and space generally come at the end of the sentence; however, they may be placed at the beginning of the sentence if the predicate clause is long and complicated:

I saw her **yesterday**. We're going to the beach **today**. She went to bed very **early**. **Tomorrow** we will try to get up early to prepare for our trip.

C. Adverbs modifying adjectives or another adverb are placed before the adjective or the adverb they modify:

She was really **very** happy to see you. It was a **brilliantly** staged performance.