

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.
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.
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).

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