

# 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. | <b>Suddenly,</b>     | the man     |               |               | saw       | the house.        |
| 2. | <b>Surprisingly,</b> | our bird    | could         |               | speak     | (French.)         |
| 3. | <b>Finally,</b>      | 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) | <b>angrily.</b>       |
| 2. | My sister |               |               | is sleeping |          | <b>in the garden</b>  |
| 3. | Mary      | will          | be            | sleeping    |          | <b>at ten o'clock</b> |
| 4. | She       | has           |               | called      | him      | <b>twice.</b>         |



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).

[english, grammar, examples](#)