Adjectives

Adverbs
OVERVIEW
ADJECTIVES

Adjectives describe nouns. We normally use adjectives in two positions - before nouns and after 'link' verbs (be, seem, appear, become, feel, look, taste, sound, smell, get, etc.):

• What a *pleasant* man! He seemed *pleasant*. 
We can use many adjectives in both positions, but we use others in either one position or the other:

- *It was an outright victory.*
- *I'm glad you could come.*
Here are more examples of adjectives commonly used before nouns:

- countless
- indoor
- neighbouring
- maximum
- northern
Here are examples of adjectives used after verbs:

- awake
- content
- asleep
- aware
- glad
- afraid
- alive
- sure
- alone
- alike
FORMING ADVERBS FROM ADJECTIVES

We can turn most adjectives into adverbs by adding -ly

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<tr>
<td>slow</td>
<td>slowly</td>
<td>quick</td>
<td>quickly</td>
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<td>possible</td>
<td>possibly</td>
<td>automatic</td>
<td>automatically</td>
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<td>easy</td>
<td>easily</td>
<td>satisfactory</td>
<td>satisfactorily</td>
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<td>true</td>
<td>truly</td>
<td>full</td>
<td>fully</td>
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We can also form some adverbs from nouns by adding -\textit{ly}:

- \textit{hour} - \textit{hourly}
- \textit{part} - \textit{partly}
Adjectives and adverbs with the same form

Some adjectives have the same form when they are adverbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was the <strong>first</strong> person there.</td>
<td>I arrived <strong>first</strong>.</td>
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<td><em>That’s a fine distinction.</em></td>
<td><em>That suits us fine.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The truck hit the low bridge</em></td>
<td><em>The plane swooped low.</em></td>
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Some adjectives end in -ly, *like* monthly and early, and have the same form as adjective and adverb. Others can't be transformed into adverbs. Instead we have to use a phrase:

- *He had a* friendly attitude.
- *He behaved in a friendly way.*
Other adjectives like this include:

- costly
- cowardly
- deadly
- likely
- lively
- lonely
- silly
- ugly
- lovely
ADVERBIAL PHRASES

An adverbial phrase (an 'adjunct') is a group of words that works like an adverb to say when, how, etc. something happens. They can be:

prepositional phrases:
• Why don't you leave all that on the table?

noun phrases:
• I wouldn't have put it that way.

adverb phrases:
• I think you've all done very well indeed.
Position AND ORDER OF ADVERBS

We usually put an adverb after an object:

- I play very well the piano.
- I play the piano very well.

Adverbs and adverbial phrases usually go at the end of the sentence, and usually in the order 'how' → ‘where’ → ‘when’:

They were playing *quietly in the garden last night*.
We can move one of these adverbs to the beginning of the sentence for emphasis or focus:

• **Last night** they were playing *quietly in the garden*. (=focusing on ‘when’)

• **In the garden,** they were all playing quietly. (=focusing on ‘where’)

Adverbs of manner can also go before the verb:

• **The villagers** *slowly* walked round the square.
OTHER ADVERBS

We usually put adverbs of frequency (*always*, *often*, etc.) before the verb or at the end of the phrase:

• *I quite often* drive past their house.
• *I drive past their house quite often.*
These adverbs usually go after the first auxiliary verb:

- *I've just* seen Dominic.
- *I've frequently* been swimming with him.
Note the variety of positions of still, already, and yet:

• I still haven't finished. I've still not finished. Is she still here?

• They've already been here. They've been here already. Are they here already? Are they already here?

• I haven't finished yet. Haven't you finished yet? I haven't yet finished.
We use only and even in two main positions:

before the subject they focus on:

• *I think only* John really understands this point.
• *Even* Simon is a bit confused.

before the verb:

• *I only* like the green ones.
• *I even* think that the red ones are ugly.
Adjective structures; adjective or adverb?

Section 1
ADJECTIVES AFTER NOUNS (1)
We can use some adjectives before and after nouns. A change in position involves a change of meaning:

• the *present circumstances* (= now)
• the people *present* (= who are here)
• an *involved explanation* (= complicated)
• the people *involved* (= who took part)
• a concerned expression
  (= worried)
• the people concerned
  (= affected)
• a responsible person
  (= sensible)
• the people responsible
  (= who did it)
There are a very few adjectives that we can only use after nouns:

- presents *galore*
- *the President elect*
- the Prime Minister *designate*
We use a to-infinitive after some adjectives following 'link' verbs, e.g. be, feel, etc:

- It's **bound to rain later**.
- I'm **willing to try**.
- I’m **loath to commit myself**.
- I'm inclined to agree.
- The situation is **liable to change**.
- They don't seem **able to help** at the moment.
- **We're due to arrive** soon.
- I’m **prepared to compromise**.
We use a that-clause after some adjectives referring to people's beliefs and feelings. (As is normal in that-clauses, we can omit that):

- I’m *pleased (that) you've found a good job.*

Here are more examples of these adjectives:

We use a prepositional phrase after some adjectives. The preposition collocates with the adjective:

- Nobody is **immune from criticism**.

Here are more examples:

- **ashamed of** – **devoid of** – **integral to** – **subject to** – **descended from** – **lacking in** – **compatible with** – **intent on** – **filled with** – **characteristic of**
We use some adjectives after link verbs.
We can normally distinguish between an adjective, which describes the noun, and an adverb, which usually adds information about the verb:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I got the answer <em>right.</em></td>
<td>It's easy, as you <em>rightly</em> say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think you're <em>wrong.</em></td>
<td>He was <em>wrongly convicted.</em></td>
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<td>Close the lid <em>tightly.</em></td>
<td>Hold on <em>tightly.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>She looks <em>pretty.</em></td>
<td>She sang very <em>prettily.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Now wipe it <em>clean.</em></td>
<td>It broke <em>clean in two.</em></td>
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Some adverbs have two forms: an -ly form and one that looks like an adjective. These two forms may have different meanings:

- He arrived *late. (= not on time)*
- I haven't seen him *lately. (= recently)*
- We’re flying *direct. (= by the shortest route)*
- I’ll tell you *directly. (= immediately)*
Choose the appropriate adjective or adverb

a They drove under a low / lowly bridge.
b She has travelled wide / widely.
c Make sure you're here at seven o'clock sharp / sharply.
d She loved him dear / dearly.
e We'll be there short / shortly.
f Three-toed sloths live deep / deeply in the Amazon forest
Answers

a. Low
b. Widely
c. Sharp
d. Dearly
e. Shortly
f. Deep
Circle the adjectives listed a, b, c or d, that can fill each gap. One, two, three or all of them may be possible.

1 The . . . . . . child was comforted by his aunt.
a sick b afraid c frightened d ill

2 They had stories . . . . . . about their travels through India.
a unlikely b galore c aplenty d countless

3 A speedy solution is . . . . . . .
a main b principal c chief d crucial
4 He was taken . . . . . . . . by the ferocity of the criticism.

a  a back  b unawares  c surprised  d unaccustomed

5 The . . . . . . . train is almost never on time.

a  last  b late  c early  d later

6 This is . . . . . . . reward for twenty years of loyal service.

a  due  b scant  c meagre  d proper
Answers

1 a, c
2 b, c
3 d
4 a, b
5 a, b, c,
6 a, b, c, d
Inversion

after negative adverbs
WHAT IS INVERSION?

When we begin a sentence with a negative adverb or adverbial phrase, we sometimes have to change the usual word order of subject and verb (often using an auxiliary verb such as *do*):

- *I had never seen so many people in one room.*
  (= normal word order)
- *Never had I seen so many people in one room.*
  (= inversion)
WHEN WE USE INVERSION

We use inversion when we move a negative adverb (*never, nowhere, not only, etc.*) **to the beginning of a sentence**.

We do this because we want to emphasize the meaning of the adverb.
Time relationships

We use inversion after 'negative' adverbs which emphasize a time relationship at the beginning of a sentence:

• *No sooner had I put the phone down than it rang again.*

• *Hardly / Scarcely / Barely had I got my breath back when it was time to go again.*
We use inversion with phrases that use *not*:

- *Not until he apologizes will I speak to him again.*
- *Not since I was little have I had so much fun.*
- *Not for one minute do I imagine they'll come back.*
We use inversion with some time phrases that use only:

• *Only after several weeks did she begin to recover.*
• *Only later did she realize what had happened.*
• *Only then did he remember he hadn't got his keys.*
• *Only when I've finished this will I be able to think about anything else.*
Here are more examples:

• only recently
• only in the last few days
• only last week
• only five minutes earlier
Frequency

- We also use inversion after 'negative' adverbs which emphasize frequency at the beginning of a sentence:

Never have I been so taken aback.

Rarely do they fail to get away for a holiday.

Seldom is that pop group out of the news.

Hardly ever did he wear a suit.
• We can also use inversion after 'negative' adverbs at the beginning of a sentence to emphasize how infrequently things happen:

**Little** did she realize what was about to happen.  
**Nowhere** was a replacement to be found.
General emphasis

• We often use inversion for general emphasis with phrases that use only:
  
  **Only by** patience and hard work will we find a solution.
  
  **Only in this way** do we stand any chance of success.

• and we can also use phrases with no:
  
  **In no way** should this be regarded as an end of the matter.
  
  **On no account** are you to repeat this to anyone.
  
  **Under no circumstances** can we accept the offer.
NOT USING INVERSION

• We use inversion when the adverb modifies the verb, and not when it modifies the noun:

*Rarely seen during the day, the badger is a famously shy animal. (= no inversion)*
*Hardly anyone knows about it. (= no inversion)*
We have a problem. Rarely .......... (1) we had a student population like this one. .......... (2) since the 1980s can I remember so many troublesome students in our school at any one time. Not only .......... (3) some of them treat the staff with absolute scorn, .......... (4) they are also clearly .......... (5) on causing as much trouble as possible among their peers. On .......... (6) account can such behaviour be allowed to continue. And not for one .......... (7) should the ringleaders think they will not be punished. Only .......... (8) such punishment is carried out will confidence return to the student body and .......... (9) then will school life return to some kind of normality. Under no circumstances .......... (10) we allow the present state of affairs to continue.
Answers

(1) have (2) Not (3) do (4) but 
(5) intent (6) no (7) moment (8) if 
(9) only (10) will