POSITION OF ADVERBS

Adverbs should come as near as possible to the verbs they qualify. This is because the meaning of a sentence can change with the change in the position of the adverb.

**Rule 1**
When the verb is *intransitive* (verbs that do not have objects), place the adverb immediately after it.
*He walked slowly. She smiled beautifully.*

**Rule 2**
When the verb is *transitive* with an object following, place the adverb immediately after the object.
*She endured the pain bravely. He offered his help willingly.*

**Rule 3**
Adverbs of Time and Frequency normally come before the verb. Examples are: *always, before, often, never, seldom* etc.
*They seldom visit us. She never admitted her fault.*

**Rule 4**
Note that when the verb consists of an auxiliary, the adverb goes after it.
They *have never* invited us to their parties.
He *was greatly* praised for his novel idea.

**Rule 5**
An adverb which modifies an adjective or another adverb comes before it.
She is *very* beautiful. (Here the adverb very modifies the adjective beautiful.)
The girl sang *so* sweetly. (Here the adverb so modifies the adverb sweetly.)

**Rule 6**
The words *only, merely, even, not and never* are usually placed before the words they modify.
I *merely* wanted to know his name.
She was *not* clever enough to see through his scheme. *He never* keeps his word.