

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.