

FORMALITY CHECK In spoken British English, if we want to emphasise an auxiliary verb or a simple form of *be*, we can put some mid-position adverbs before it. The auxiliary/verb is usually stressed:

'But I thought you liked him!' 'Oh, you **really don't** understand me at all!'

'Joe's late. That's strange' 'Not really, he **never is** on time!'

Compare:

I *don't really* like him. (unmarked: I slightly dislike him.)

I *really don't* like him. (emphatic: I strongly dislike him.)



We do not use other time adverbs (definite time or frequency) in mid position:

✗ ~~We yesterday bought our lunch at Joe's sandwich bar.~~ ✗ ~~I once a month pay my rent.~~

But we can do this in news reports:

The Federal Reserve **today announced** an immediate rise in interest rates.

4 End position

This is the most frequent position for adverbs. It is the usual position for *yet, a lot, any more, any longer, too, as well*:

✗ ~~They aren't any more selling it.~~ ✓ They aren't selling it **any more**.

We usually put adverbs of manner (which describe how something is done) and adverbs of definite frequency in this position:

✗ ~~He well plays the guitar.~~ ✓ He plays the guitar **well**. ✓ The magazine is published **monthly**.

Adverbs of manner which end in *-ly* (except *badly*) can go in end or mid position:

Harry **painstakingly** counted out the coins and arranged them **neatly** into piles.

The thief entered the room **silently** and **carefully** opened the safe door.



We don't use *hardly ever* or *never* in end position:

✗ ~~They watch television hardly ever.~~ ✓ They **hardly ever** watch television.

If we put *often, rarely* and *seldom* in end position, we use a modifier, e.g. *very, extremely*:

✗ ~~These days I eat desserts rarely.~~ ✓ These days I eat desserts **very rarely**.

We usually avoid having too many adverbs in end position, but when this occurs we often follow this sequence:

The statue was lifted 1 manner **carefully** 2 place **onto the platform** 3 time **before the ceremony**.

5 Sentence adverbs

Sentence adverbs refer to the whole sentence, not just part of it. We usually put these adverbs at the beginning of a sentence, separated by a comma:

Economically, the current government has been a resounding success.

(= The government has successfully managed the economy.)

Generally, the employer pays for travel expenses. (= This is true in most cases.)

Comment adverbs are sentence adverbs such as *admittedly, frankly, indeed, understandably*, which we use to express our attitude towards the information in a statement:

Admittedly, these results are only preliminary. (= This may contradict previous information.)



Pronunciation ► 1.05

Use of these adverbs in writing ► Unit 78.4, in speech ► Unit 81.3

Other linking adverbs, e.g. *additionally, however, therefore* ► Unit 61



Some adverbs, e.g. *naturally* and *clearly*, can be used as sentence adverbs and also as adverbs of manner. Note the different meanings:

*Despite being in a zoo, the animals behaved quite **naturally**.* (= in a natural way)

***Naturally**, wild animals behave quite differently in captivity.* (= of course)

*The teacher answered the question **clearly** and precisely.* (= in a clear way)

***Clearly**, the teacher didn't answer the question.* (= This is obvious.)