

Adverb



~ English Grammar · Competitive Exams ~



An **adverb** describes or qualifies a **verb**, an **adjective**, or another **adverb**.

Ram speaks **loudly** (verb). She is **very** kind (adjective). He runs **very** fast (adverb).

① Kinds of Adverb

Kind of Adverb	Examples
1. Adverb of Manner (how)	hard, well, slowly, fast, carefully
2. Adverb of Place (where)	here, there, out, away, everywhere
3. Adverb of Time (when)	today, now, soon, then, tomorrow
4. Adverb of Frequency (how often)	always, often, seldom, never, twice

② Position of Adverb

i) Adverbs of **manner, place, time** come **after the verb** — and after the **object** if there is one.

X He paints carefully a picture.

✓ He paints a picture carefully.

X He yesterday came home.

✓ He came home yesterday.

ii) Adverbs of **frequency** come **just before the main verb**.

X I have seen never the fort.

✓ I have never seen the fort.

X She laughs always at jokes.

✓ She always laughs at jokes.

Position of Adverb – contd.

iii) When manner, place & time come together, the order is **manner + place + time**.

X He sang yesterday beautifully.

✓ He sang beautifully yesterday.

iv) Do **not split** an **infinitive** (to + VI) with an adverb; place **not** before **to**.

X She asked him to carefully write.

✓ She asked him to write carefully.

X Ram told Mohan to not cheat.

✓ Ram told Mohan not to cheat.

③ Important Points

i) Two **adjectives** cannot stand together; make the first an **adverb**.

X He is absolute right.

✓ He is absolutely right.

X It is real important.

✓ It is really important.

ii) After sense verbs — **feel, smell, taste, seem, appear, look** — use an **adjective**, not an adverb.

X The flowers smell sweetly.

✓ The flowers smell sweet.

X She seems angrily.

✓ She seems angry.

iii) **Hard, fast, late** do **not** take **-ly** (they are both adjective and adverb).

X He walks fastly.

✓ He walks fast.

X The train came latly.

✓ The train came late.

iv) If a sentence begins with **Hardly, Scarcely, No sooner, Never, Seldom**, invert it (verb before subject); these are **negative** words, so never add **no/not**.

X Hardly he had started when it rained.

✓ Hardly had he started when it rained.

X I have hardly not any money.

✓ I have hardly any money.

④ Use of Some Adverbs

i) **Very** goes with the **positive** degree; **Much** goes with the **comparative** degree.

X This bag is much heavy.

✓ This bag is very heavy.

X She is very better now.

✓ She is much better now.

ii) **Very** is used before a **present participle** (V + ing); **Much** before a **past participle** (V + ed).

X The film was much interesting.

✓ The film was very interesting.

X She was very surprised.

✓ She was much surprised.

iii) **Fairly** is used in a **good** sense; **Rather** in a **bad** sense.

X This tea is rather good.

✓ This tea is fairly good.

✓ This soup is rather cold.

iv) **Enough** comes **after** the adjective/adverb (but before a noun) and takes the **positive** degree.

X He is enough tall to reach it.

✓ He is tall enough to reach it.

X He is greater enough to forgive.

✓ He is great enough to forgive.

v) **Too** means 'more than enough' (an unpleasant sense) and takes **too + adjective + to**; do not use **not** with it.

X I am too happy to see you.

✓ I am very happy to see you.

X She is too weaker in maths.

✓ She is too weak in maths.

vi) **Ago** is used in the **present-to-past** sense (after the word); **Before** in the **past-to-past** sense.

X He came two hours before.

✓ He came two hours ago.

X Ago 2000, this was a village.

✓ Before 2000, this was a village.

Quick Tips!

- ✓ Manner/place/time adverbs → **after the verb** (and object); frequency → **before the main verb**.
- ✓ Order when together: **manner + place + time**.
- ✓ After feel/smell/taste/seem/look → **adjective**; **hard, fast, late** take no '-ly'.
- ✓ **Very** + positive / present participle; **Much** + comparative / past participle.
- ✓ **Enough** comes after the adjective; **too ... to** takes no 'not'; use **ago** (not before).

- ✓ Golden rule → an adverb usually answers **how, where, when** or **how often** – find that word first, then drop it into its correct slot in the sentence.

One-look Recap

Word	Use it with ...
Very	positive degree · present participle (V + ing)
Much	comparative degree · past participle (V + ed)
Fairly	a good sense
Rather	a bad sense
Enough	after the adjective/adverb · positive degree
Ago	present-to-past (after the word)
Before	past-to-past

Exercise – Spot the Error

Find the part (a)/(b)/(c)/(d) that has the error.

1. She looks (a) / happy and (b) / cheerfully (c) / today (d).
2. Hardly he (a) / had reached (b) / when the bell (c) / rang (d).
3. He is (a) / absolute (b) / right about (c) / the answer (d).
4. Unless you (a) / do not work (b) / hard, you cannot (c) / succeed (d).
5. She was (a) / very surprised (b) / at his rude (c) / behaviour (d).
6. I like (a) / Ravi because (b) / he is (c) / rather tall (d).
7. As the boy (a) / came lately, (b) / he was (c) / punished (d).
8. Many students (a) / who came (b) / late than (c) / Ravi were punished (d).
9. After six months (a) / he understood (b) / everyone in the city (c) / perfect (d).
10. He worked hardly (a) / but he failed (b) / to win (c) / the prize (d).
11. This car is (a) / enough big (b) / for four people (c) / to sit (d).
12. This book is much (a) / interesting and (b) / very popular (c) / among students (d).
13. The team managed (a) / to score (b) / two goals only (c) / in the match (d).
14. The teacher told (a) / the boys to not (b) / make (c) / a noise (d).
15. He cannot (a) / speak because (b) / his health (c) / is too bad (d).
16. No sooner the bell (a) / rang than (b) / the students came (c) / out (d).
17. This house is old; (a) / I need a (b) / real good house (c) / to live in (d).
18. He drove the car (a) / so fastly (b) / that he met (c) / with an accident (d).
19. I have hardly (a) / some money (b) / to buy (c) / a book (d).
20. Never I have (a) / seen such (b) / a beautiful (c) / painting (d).
21. Hardly had (a) / she left (b) / than the rain (c) / started (d).
22. I have (a) / hardly not (b) / any paper (c) / to write on (d).
23. Ram ran fastest (a) / enough to (b) / get selected in (c) / the team (d).
24. He is not (a) / too weak (b) / to pass (c) / the exam (d).
25. No sooner had (a) / the plane landed (b) / then a bomb (c) / exploded (d).
26. This shop is (a) / very well stocked; (b) / you can almost get (c) / any book here (d).

Answer Key ✓

1. (c) → **cheerful** (after 'looks' use an adjective).
2. (a) → **Hardly had he** (inversion after 'Hardly').
3. (b) → **absolutely** (adverb before an adjective).
4. (b) → **work** ('unless' already means 'if not' — drop 'not').
5. (b) → **much surprised** (much before a past participle).
6. (d) → **fairly** (good sense → fairly).
7. (b) → **late** ('lately' means 'recently').
8. (c) → **later** ('than' needs a comparative).
9. (d) → **perfectly** (adverb qualifies the verb).
10. (a) → **hard** ('hardly' means 'scarcely').
11. (b) → **big enough** ('enough' comes after the adjective).
12. (a) → **very** (very before a present participle).
13. (c) → **only two goals** ('only' comes before the word it limits).
14. (b) → **not to** (do not split the infinitive).
15. (d) → **very bad** ('too' is not used in this sense here).
16. (a) → **No sooner did the bell ring** (inversion).
17. (c) → **really** (adverb before an adjective).
18. (b) → **so fast** ('fast' takes no '-ly').
19. (b) → **any** ('hardly' takes 'any', not 'some').
20. (a) → **Never have I** (inversion after 'Never').
21. (c) → **when** ('Hardly ... when', not 'than').
22. (b) → **hardly** (drop 'not' after 'hardly').
23. (a) → **fast** (positive degree before 'enough').
24. (a) → drop **not** ('too ... to' takes no 'not').
25. (c) → **than** ('No sooner ... than').
26. (d) → **some** (affirmative sentence → 'some').

☆ Place the adverb right — every time! ☆