Adverbs/ adverbial phrases

Adverbs can describe an action or modify adjectives or other adverbs. They can either be one word or a phrase.

He walks slowly.
He works very hard.
It's very hard work.
They always walk to school.
They walk to school every day.

Adverbs of manner (how)
Adverbs of frequency (how often)
Adverbs of time and place (when, where)
Adverbs of degree (how much, to what extent)
Comment adverbs (opinion)

Form: adjective + ly
e.g. patient + ly = patiently

Spelling variations

- Adj.s ending in consonant 'y', change 'y' to 'i' + ly

  lucky – luckily
  Exception: shy - shyly

- Adj.s ending in -*ble* or -*tle*, (consonant +*le*), remove 'e', + y

  comfortable – comfortably
  gentle – gently

NB Adj.s ending in *vowel* + *cons* + *e* - keep the 'e', + ly

  fortunate - fortunately
  extreme - extremely

NB strange – strangely - keep the 'e' for pronunciation purposes

- Adj.s ending in 'ic' + ally

  basic – basically
  scientifically
  automatically

BUT publicly = exception

Irregular adverbs
Good – well
Hard * – no change (*be careful *hardly* – *hardly ever*)
Fast – no change
Late* – no change (*be careful *lately* = *recently*)

Early – no change

He works **hard**. *Adv of manner*. **NOT** He works hardly.
He hardly ever goes out. (*adv frequency*)

She got up **late**. **NOT** She got up lately.
Lately, I've been feeling ill. - *recently*

Position of adverbs/ adverbial phrases in a sentence

1. at the beginning
   ***Suddenly**, she realised that the brakes weren't working.*

2. in mid-position (often before the main verb)
   *I **hardly ever** use public transport.*

3. at the end
   *I go to the cinema **twice a year**.*

If you are unsure, think about which position sounds best.