

## 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** = patient**ly**

### Spelling variations

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

lucky – luck**ily**

**Exception:** shy - shy**ly**

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