**Position of Adverbs**

We can put adverbs and adverb phrases in three positions: initial position, mid position, or final position.

**Initial position: at the beginning of the sentence.**

* ***Yesterday*** *I went to an American football game.*
* ***Just before the game,*** *they sang the national anthem.*

**Final position: at the end of the sentence.**

* *The coach arrived* ***very late****.*
* *The players have to move* ***quickly****.*

**Mid position**

This is the position where most adverbs are placed. It is **before the main verb**.

* *I* ***often*** *eat apple pie.*
* *They don’t* ***always*** *drink water.*

**After** the verb **be** (when it is the main verb).

* *They are* ***often*** *late.*

**After** the **auxiliary verb** or the first auxiliary verb (when there are two or more auxiliary verbs)

* *You must* ***never*** *do that again.*
* *I have* ***often*** *been asked if I like pizza.*

**Types of adverbs and their position**

**Adverbs of frequency (=how often)**

Adverbs of frequency usually go in mid position, although a few of them (**sometimes, usually** and **normally**) can also go in initial position.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mid position** | * *I* ***usually*** *watch basketball on Saturdays.*
* *She’s* ***hardly ever*** *late*
* *You should* ***always*** *be friendly.*
 |
| **Initial position**: sometimes, usually, normally | * ***Sometimes*** *I play baseball.*
 |

**Adverbs of manner (=how)**

Adverbs of manner can be used in any of the three positions; however, their most common position is the final position.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Final position** | * *I don’t understand you when you speak* ***quickly****.*
* *She can play soccer* ***fabulously.***
 |
| **Mid position**- Literary style- Passive verb forms- cannot be placed in mid position: well, badly, hard, fast. | * *He* ***carefully*** *took the flower and put it in the jar.*(=literary)
* *The cheerleader was* ***seriously*** *injured.*
 |
| **Initial position**- only in literary style | * ***Carefully****, she opened the box.*
 |

**Adverbs of time (=when)**

We normally place adverbs of time in final position.

We place them in initial position for emphasis or to structure a text (as connecting devices).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Final position** | * *They’ll be here* ***soon****.*
* *It rained a lot****yesterday****.*
 |
| **Initial position** | * ***Two days after the game****, the coach got fired.*
* ***Last week****, she arrived late every day.*
 |

**Comment adverbs**

Viewpoint or comment adverbs, e.g. **obviously, luckily, unfortunately, honestly, etc.**, are normally placed in **initial position**.

* ***Unfortunately****, my team lost the game.*
* ***Ideally****, we should leave at 10.00.*

**Adverbs of degree (=how much)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Almost, hardly, nearly, quite, rather, scarcely, etc.**Most degree adverbs usually go in mid position. | * *We were* ***nearly*** *hit by a car in the street.*
* *I would* ***rather*** *stay here if you don’t mind.*
 |
| **Very, extremely, incredibly, absolutely, etc.**They are placed before the adjective or adverb they modify. | * *We’re* ***incredibly*** *tired.*
* *It’s* ***absolutely*** *impossible to win this game.*
 |
| **Much, a lot, a bit**They are normally used after the verb they complement. | * *Americans eat* ***a lot****.*
* *She doesn’t talk* ***much****.*
 |
| **A little** It’s normally placed before the adjective or adverb they modify. | * *I’m* ***a little*** *tired.*
 |

**Manner, place and time**

When we have to use different adverbs in final position, their order is usually manner, place and time.

* *They met* ***by chance******in the USA******in 2019****.*

Note that when there is a verb of movement, the order is place, manner and time.

* *He goes* ***to school******by car******every day****.*