ENGLISH GRAMMAR · DEEP DIVE

Where Adverbs Go

English is strict about word order, and adverbs are the one part of the sentence that moves: but only to three places, and normally never between the verb and its object.

B1 · adverbs · word order · frequency

front

Before the subject, usually with a comma.

Suddenly, ...

Suddenly, the lights went out.

mid

Before the main verb, but after be and the first auxiliary.

I never go · I am never · I have never

I have never been to Japan.

end

After the verb and its object.

...English fluently

She speaks English fluently.

RULE	DETAIL	EXAMPLE
verb + object	never split them	I like this book **very much**.
manner, place, time	the order at the end	She sang **beautifully at the concert last night**.
only, even, just	right before the word they modify	**Only** I saw her.
twice a week, every day	phrases go at the end	I go swimming **twice a week**.

1 Where does it go?

Rewrite the words in brackets in the right order to complete the sentence.

1 She _____ . (fluently / English / speaks)

2 I _____ to Japan. (been / never / have)

3 I _____ late for meetings. (always / am)

4 I _____ there on Mondays. (usually / go / don't)

5 I like _____ . (very much / this book)

6 She _____ late on Fridays. (works / often)

7 I go swimming _____ . (a week / twice)

8 He went _____ after the meeting. (quickly / home)

9 I could _____ anything at all. (hear / hardly)

10 She _____ my birthday. (remembered / even)

2 Manner, place, time

Put the end of each sentence in the right order.

1 She sang _____ . (last night / beautifully / at the concert)

2 We worked _____ . (yesterday / hard / in the garden)

3 He arrived _____ . (this morning / at the station)

4 The children played _____ . (all afternoon / happily / in the park)

5 I'll meet you _____ . (at six / outside the cinema)

6 She drove _____ . (to work / carefully / every day)

3 Spot the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence on the line.

1 She speaks fluently English.

2 I like very much this book.

3 I always am late for meetings.

4 I twice a week go swimming.

5 I don't never go there.

6 She sang last night beautifully at the concert.

Remember I always arrive early, but I am always early: with be, the adverb comes after the verb.

4 A short text

Put the words in brackets in the right order.

My neighbour Paul [1] _____ (gets up / always) at five. He [2] _____ (is / never) late for work. He [3] _____ (well / plays / the piano), and he practises [4] _____ (every evening / in the kitchen). Last week he [5] _____ (has / hardly / slept) because of a concert. [6] _____ (Fortunately / ,) it went [7] _____ (very well). He [8] _____ (even / played) a piece he wrote himself.

5 Mid or end?

Where does each adverb or phrase usually go? Write it in the right box.

always | every day | never | twice a week | usually | now and then | often | on Sundays

mid position	end position

Where are the answers?

The answers, with an explanation for each one, are in the LinguaBite app. Open this Deep Dive and scroll to Downloads at the bottom of the article: once you have downloaded this worksheet, its answers appear there after a couple of days, so you do the exercises first. You can choose 1, 2 or 3 days in the app's Settings.

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