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### Location and Sequence of Adverbials in English Sentences

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#### Abstract

The current research is specialized in studying an important subject, viz, the location and sequence of different adverbials in the English sentence. Mastering the right position and correct order of different adverbials in the sentences reflects good learning on the part of the learners of English. Many learners, however, ignore how to arrange the adverbials correctly at the end of the sentence besides their ignorance of the right position of some adverbials is clear as well. This subject has truly a vital role in the English grammar since it is inescapable in speech and writing

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## موقع وتعاقب الظروف في الجمل الإنكليزية

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الخلاصة :	الكلمات الدالة :-
يختص البحث بدراسة موضوع مهم الا وهو موقع وترتيب مختلف الظروف في الجمل الانكليزية،. تعكس الهيمنة على الموقع والترتيب الصحيح للظروف في الجمل الانكليزية تعكس حقيقة ان المتعلم بحالة جيدة.	- الظروف - الموقع - تعاقب الظروف - ظرف المكان - ظرف الزمان - ظرف الحال
الكثير من المتعلمين، على اية حال، يجهلون كيفية ترتيب الظروف بشكل صحيح في نهاية الجملة، علاوة على ذلك جهلهم للموقع الصحيح لبعض الظروف في الجملة الانكليزية. ان هذا الموضوع له دور مهم وحيوي حقاً في النحو الانكليزي سيما لا يمكن تجنبه اطلاقاً في الكلام والكتابة.	<b>معلومات البحث</b> <b>تاريخ البحث:</b> الاستلام: ٢٠٢١_١١_٢ القبول: ٢٠٢١_١٢_٦ التوفر على النت 23-1-2022

### 1. Introduction

The researchers realize that many more writers of grammar and researchers have dealt with the very subject of this study "adverbs and adverbials". But the present research has positive sides because it has been forwarded in a simple way and easy style which can rapidly be understood by learners of English of different levels in particular and readers in general. Our experience in teaching English grammar for several decades assures that learners of English often ignore to arrange the adverbials in correct order in addition they mostly fail to determine the right position of the adverbials in sentences, too. The research is skillfully-prepared to lessen the risks of making mistakes on the part of learners in this area of English grammar.

The writers of this study are keen on putting the adverbials of manner, place and time under discussion and explanation as main parts of the subject. Other adverbial realizations are explained and given moderate spectrum of analysis as well.

The researchers have a long way to cover every aspect of the subject until this work has come to an end. They, however, certainly find the subject interesting while they are making important attempts to put the topic under researching since it is widely-used in everyday communication.

The study begins with an abstract followed by an introduction. section (2) is an attempt to present the available material in the English literature of grammar regarding position and order of the adverbials .

The coming headings and subheadings can be encountered in this section: adverbs defined and position and sequence of the adverbials of manner, place and time. Section (3) is intended to exhibit various adverbials clauses including the ideas of purpose and condition.

In section (4) the findings are arrived at via carrying out total examination for the whole research for several times in course of writing it and later after its completion. Recommendations are suggested in section (5) the final one. The introduction has the following subheadings:

### **1.1 Problem**

Learners of English in our community sometimes encounter a slight difficulty in recognizing the form of adverbs who sometimes fail to identify the adverbs as adverbs confusing them with adjectives and nouns. This difficulty can be overcome in the course of time via continuing training and practice inside and outside the classes.

The problem certainly becomes bigger since the correct order of the adverbials seems to be an actual barrier against rapid learning of this area of grammar. On the other hand, position of an adverbial in a sentence also represents another problematic point facing those learners during their study. They may be puzzled where to put a certain adverbial in the sentence; in this case they would make errors in regard to position. Wrong choice sometimes change the whole meaning of the sentence .

### **1.2 Aims intended**

This study intends to reach the coming aims:

1. The writers of this study are trying to uncover important linguistic facts about the subject and presenting some grammarians' contributions and thoughts on the subject. Their thoughts are obviously presented and accurately analyzed in addition to offering comments, analyses and new views by the very researchers of this study.
2. One more aim behind the study is to reach useful conclusions and suggestions via which the learners of English can overcome the hardships relative to understanding and speaking skills. Writing can be improved, too, in the case of mastering the subject under investigation .
3. Another aim of this research is to reduce the risks of making mistakes in this area of English grammar since learners of English are usually prone to choose the wrong position and order of the adverbials in English sentences.

### **1.3 Procedure**

The procedure to be followed in this research can be summed up below:

1. Presenting the material available in the literature of the English grammar relative to location and sequence of the adverbials used in the English sentences. Besides the right position of adverbs given place in the research.
2. Putting the very material collected under discussion and explanation. During the process of researching, proper analyses and comments are given on the subject.
3. Spotting conclusions and judgments reached on the subject that are inserted in the final section of the research.

### **1.4 Value of the Research**

This study is anticipated to be of crucial advantage theoretically and practically. The theoretical aspect ascertains the importance of position and order of adverbials in English as a foreign language.

Practically, the findings of the study will benefit the teachers of English in improving their performance in classes of English. Besides, this work is supposed to be of a big advantage for the text-book writers in their job.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Research**

This paper is intended to put under serious examination all about adverbs in relation to position and order in English sentences with focusing on the main three types of adverbial clauses. Other adverbial realizations are not overlooked so as to have a comprehensive research

## **2. The concept of Adverbs**

### **2.1 English Adverb Defined**

Many grammarians ascertain that adverbs make one of the most complicated area in the syntax of English. The terms "adverb" and "adverbial" differ in regard to their scope and reference. The writers of this study will throw light on both terms in the course of tackling the subject in detail in this section.

Roberts (1954: 208) adopts the notional definition saying: an adverb is a word that is used to refer to manner, place, time, degree amount, purpose, result, circumstances and condition. Lamberts (1972: 263) gives his definition depending on the functional thought. He states that an adverb is a word modifying verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. In other words, an adverb is a word that describes verbs, adjectives or adverbs . Klammer (1911:734) has a special way of defining adverb by stressing that an adverb is that part of speech modifying a word or a set of words except nouns or pronouns .

### **2.2 Adverbs forms**

Many adverbs are formed by adding (-ly) to the adjectives. In this way, many adverbs of manner are obtained like

Fluent \_\_\_\_\_ fluently

1. she speaks French fluently.

Some adverbs are independent words which are not derived from other words, such as: always, quite , often, seldom and others.

Learners of English as a foreign language should pay attention to some words that end in (-ly) but they are adjectives like friendly, kingly, lovely etc.

2. This is a lovely girl.

3. They are playing a friendly match.

Some adverbs have the same form as adjectives, for example: fast, low, hard and others.

Some pairs ( e.g. hard, hardly; late, lately ) are both adverbs with different meanings. Well is an adverb of good but it is sometimes used as adjective.

Some adverbs, such as: daily, weekly ,monthly and yearly can be adjectives and sometimes they are used as nouns, e.g.

4.a. A daily newspaper issues daily.

(adjective)

b. The dailies are few in Iraq.

(noun)

c. She comes daily to work.

(adverb)

### **2. 3 Position of Adverbs**

Two main functions can be deduced from position inside the sentence or the word-order of it. They are: (1) to indicate grammatical relations and to reach discourse function. (2) these relations determine the placement of adverbials. The basic distinction between adverbials and

other elements, however, is the freedom of occurrence of the adverbials in the sentence, i.e., adverbials can occupy freely different places in the sentence. In other words, the adverbials can appear in various positions in the sentence; but sometimes different position of adverbials create unavoidable differences in meaning.

( Commrie, 1981: 87 )

Different possible positions of adverbials are distinguished in English.

1. Front position: before the subject.
2. front medial: in clauses including an auxiliary between the subject and a verb. They are situated before the auxiliary.
3. Medial: between the subject and the verb after the auxiliary if there is one.
4. Medial medial: before the auxiliary which directly comes before the main verb in phrases with three or more auxiliaries.
5. front end: after the verb but before an obligatory constituent in the clause.
6. End: after all elements at the end of the sentence.

#### **2. 4 Order of adverbials**

In this part, the sequence of different adverbials will clearly be shown. The adverbials of manner, place and time occur in the final position in this order in the sentence, i.e., they are grouped according to the order mentioned here. In other words, all these type of adverbials are situated in the final position of the clause, e.g.

( Quirk, 1972: 506)

5. She spoke well in the interview yesterday
6. They negotiated gently in Baghdad last week,
7. The maid should treat the children finely in the orphanage everyday.

#### **2. 5. Adverbials of Manner, Place and Time**

The following subtitles will supply information about adverbials of manner, place and time and other adverbial types with their position in the sentence.

##### **2. 5 .1 Adverbials of Manner**

The wh-question how ask about the adverbs of manner. Many adverbs of manner end with the inflection (-ly ) which are usually used in end position of a clause following a transitive verb or situated after the direct object of a transitive verb, e.g.

8. The Iraqi boxer defended strongly for Asian title.

9. She ground the coffee beans well.

The first example contains the adverb of manner strongly which occurs after the transitive verb defended, whereas, in the second example, the adverb of manner well is preceded by the direct object the coffee beans of the transitive verb ground.

It is permissible to place the adverb of manner at the beginning of a sentence to highlight the notion indicated by the adverb like

10. strongly, the Iraqi boxer defended for Asian title.

11. Well, she ground the coffee beans.

The notions expressed by strongly and well are highlighted. Adverbs of manner are often come across in the medial position of a clause, especially, when no adverb of frequency is existent in the clause, e.g.

12. I quietly closed the window.

13. She has precisely studied everything.

In the first example, the adverb quietly is placed before the simple past verb. The second example includes the adverb of manner precisely which is situated between the two parts of the verb phrase has studied.

In informal English, adverbs of manner are often placed directly after to of an infinitive by ordinary people. In this case, the infinitive is considered as a separated infinitive. In the example below, the to-infinitive is split:

14. I got to quickly change my mind.

To change in this example is separated by the adverb quickly. Split infinitive are often not used in formal English, the above example is used in the following form

15. I got to change my mind quickly.

The adverb phrases and clauses of manner are usually positioned at the end of a clause like:

16. They came on foot.

17. The pupils ended their written homework as rapidly as they could. In example (12) the adverb phrase of manner on foot is given the position after the intransitive verb came, whereas the example (13) shows that the adverb clause of manner as rapidly as they could is situated after the direct object their written homework of the transitive verb ended. Sometimes adverbs phrases and clauses of manner occur at the beginning of a clause for reasons of emphasis, e.g. 18. As rapidly as they could the pupils ended their written homework. The adverb clause as rapidly as they could in the last example is highlighted.

### **2. 5. 2 Adverbs of Place**

The question word where asks about adverbs of place. Adverbs of place, adverb phrases and clauses of place mostly occur at the end position, but they are located before the adverbs of time and adverbs of purpose. The adverbs, adverb phrase and clause of place mentioned below are underlined:

19. We are travelling there after tomorrow.

20. He forgot the driving license in the car two hours ago.

21. He goes in the room where she sleeps.

In the first example, there is the adverb of location there used after the verb phrase are travelling and before the adverb of time after tomorrow. The second example includes the adverb phrase in the car preceding the adverb of time two hours ago and it is situated after the object the driving license. In example no. (21), the clause of location where she sleeps occurs after the object the room of the verb goes in at the end of the clause.

Five semantic relations of adverbials are recognized in English as far as space is concerned.

#### **1. position**

22. He sat in his chair.

#### **2. Direction**

a. with positional conditions.

23. They went eastwards.

b. Non-positional conditions.

24. She moved up the hill.

#### **3. Goal**

25. She went to the fashion house.

#### **4 Source**

26. She went down the hill for the medical center.

#### **5 Distance**

27. The minibus is driving a long way.

Place adjuncts most commonly appear in a form of prepositional phrases. They depend on locational differences as stated above, e.g. ..

28. I come across flex in the stadium.

The clausal recognition is proper where the real location is indefinite, e.g.

29. The family must go where their father works.

As for as position is concerned, some adjuncts prefer **end** place, whereas they are mostly used initially for particular purposes.

A. In order to create sense of location, adjuncts are put initially, e.g.

30. In the cage, there are three singing nightingales.

B. Or sometimes to avoid focusing on end position

( Ibid: 254 )

### 2.5.3 Adverbials of Time

It is when which asks about adverbials of time. This type of adverbs can usually occur either initially or at the end of the clause. In the next sentences the adverbs of time are underlined

31. Today I will buy some fruit.

32. I will visit my uncle tomorrow.

The example (31) shows that today is situated at the beginning of a clause, whereas tomorrow in example (32) occupies the end position. Adverbs of time are normally used at the end of a clause after adverbs of manner and adverbs of location.

( Stageberg, 1972: 277 )

Now, then and once are exceptional adverbs since they can be used in any of the three positions in the clause. In this feature, they are considered flexible like

33. a. Now it is the time for discussion.

b. It is now the time for discussion.

c. It is the time for discussion now.

Note: some time as an adverb of time should be distinguished from the adverb of frequency sometimes, notice the example below:

34. I should like to write those poems some time.

35. I sometimes meet my boss.

Some time in the first example is mentioned at the end of the clause. Hence, sometimes in the second sentence occurs in the middle of the clause.

Adverb phrase and clauses of time are usually placed either at the beginning or at the end position of a clause.

36. At ten o'clock, the plane will arrive.

37. I will help you when you are in need.

The adverb phrase in the first sentence occur in the initial position before the clause the plane will arrive. The adverb clause when you are in need, however, occupies the end position preceding the clause I will help you.

### 3. Adverb clauses

Similar to other adverbs, the adverbial clauses are used to denote how, where, and when an incident is done. Unlike the adverbs, they don't take relative pronouns; in place of that they are governed by subordinate connectors like although, after, because, as long as, since, if, so, unless, until, that, whenever, whether, when and while.

38. When I was in London, I visited several museums,

39. I made several visits to Hyde Park when I was in London.

The adverbial clause, when I was in London is a dependent one. It can't be used alone because it doesn't give a complete sense. It must be related to an independent clause in order to have an understood sentence.

As for as punctuation is concerned, comma should be put after the adverbial clause and before the independent clause; in doing so, the two clauses are separated. When the adverbial clause is used at the end position, comma is not required in this case.

40. Because he was optimistic to win, he participated in the competition.

41. He made an accident because he was driving so fast.

Other conjunctions like when and until can be used to start an adverb clause.

### **3. 1 Purpose**

This type of adverbial clauses is used in English to express the purpose why the action is done. The following conjunctions: so that, in order that, and lest usually tell about this notion like

42. She accepted her rival's challenge so that she could preserve her dignity.

43. She chose to speak English lest she might fail in the test.

### **3. 2 Condition**

This case refers how an action took place, takes place or will take place in the future. The fulfillment of an action is related to another action. This is used in the case of clause of condition.

44. He will send the letter if he finishes it.

Clauses of condition are presented by the conjunction whether or not, too. This adverb clause of condition indicates the notion of which neither this condition nor that condition matters, the result will similar despite all conditions, i.e., that makes no difference.

45.a. If she is relieved, she is going to the beach.

b. If she is not relieved, she is going to the beach.

c. she doesn't care about her psychology.

d. The makes no difference for her.

The two related actions of two verbs take place in a single sentence.

( Klammer, 1935: 333 )

Even if can also exist informing conditional clauses, e.g.

46. He is going to the theatre even if his father objects him.

Sentences with even if are closely related in meaning to clauses including whether or not. Even if conveys the idea of a certain condition that doesn't care about the doing of the action ( Ibid: 355)

### **4. Conclusion**

So far position and order of adverbials in English sentences are discussed and analyzed in detail. Big difficulties have appeared during investigation, but the researchers have exerted exceptional efforts to overcome them and bring the research to a reasonable end.

Wading through such a topic is not an easy task since it contains enormous ideas that require continuous analysis and comment. Therefore, the researchers believe that the learners of English can find this research helpful to improve their performance in this area of grammar in particular and in the language as whole in general.

After several times of examining the material of the research during the process of writing it and later following its finalization, a number of important points arrived at are to be posed below:

1. All English words are inserted within the subject of parts of speech which are divided into main parts of speech and those secondary ones. Adverbs are classified as one of the main parts of speech side by side with verb, adjectives and nouns.

2. As is the case with other topics, ambiguity may emerge in the sentences embracing adverbials. Ambiguous sentences entail interpretations which can be realized through changing the style of the sentence. Sentences including more than one verb can exhibit difficulty because they are ambiguous sometimes, e.g.



47. His insistence that the new sales plan should be implanted rapidly increased the company's profits?

In example (47), does rapidly modify implemented or increased? Anyhow, this sentence can be rewritten to remove the ambiguity. Two possibilities of avoiding the ambiguity are offered below:

48.a. His insistence on implementing the new sales plan caused the company's profits to increase rapidly.

b. Because he insisted on rapid implementation of the new sales plan, the company's profits increased.

3. Adverbs are more flexible than any other element of the sentence, i.e., some adverbs can be used freely in any position with no change in meaning. Therefore, they can exist initially, medially and finally in the sentence.

4. Different positions of some adverbials can create differences in meaning. The learners should be careful in selecting the right position for the intended meaning.

..

5. Adverbials can be considered as clues of clarity since they often add elements of clarification to the sentences. The listener can understand the speaker better if the sentence includes clarifying adverbs. Some sentences entail the existence of adverbs lest they can be in short of necessary elements.

6. Most learners of English, especially, the beginners ignore the correct position and order of adverbials in sentences.

7. Sometimes some learners cannot recognize adverbs as adverbs, especially, the adverbs which don't end with (-ly). This is ascribed to the little knowledge they have about adverbs.

8. In front position, an adverb is usually written before a comma. Front position adverbs are used to modify the whole sentence not the verb of it like 49

a. Fortunately, he came in time.

b. Frankly, he is a good film actor.

9. It may not occur to the learners of English that words like kindly, friendly, lovely and some other are used only as adjectives having no adverbial indication. And some learners don't realize that the words fast, hard and others have double use as adjectives and adverbs at the same time. Such learners may feel surprised to come across the words daily, weekly etc. used as nouns besides being adverbs and sometimes they occupy the position of adjectives, e.g.

50. There are many dailies in Iraq, but few weeklies.

All these points, despite being hard, can be overcome when continuing training and practice are adopted inside and outside the classroom.

10. Since most of the learners of English are Arabists, let's offer a hint on the parts of speech in Arabic. Adverbs are not taught and studied as a part of speech in the language; actually, the Arabic parts of speech include only: verbs, nouns and particles. The English adverbs and translated into Arabic by using nouns, a particle attached to nouns and nouns preceded by independent particle.

## **5. Recommendations**

1. The researchers don't know whether the position and order of adverbials are universal subjects or not. In other words, are these topics available in other languages around the world or not? The answer to this question can only be obtained from scholars specialized at least in several world's languages to offer the final decision on this matter .

2. The teachers of English are preferably to read the current research carefully to overcome the difficulties and the problematic points which their learners may face. And the learners have to locate more time for training and practice to avoid appearing poor in this area of English grammar.

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