

CHAPTER-VIII

The Adverb



Examine the following sentences :

1. Sheela talks gently.
2. Naresh is very fine these days.
3. My teachers speak English very fluently.

In these sentences, 'gently', 'very' are the words which have modified or added something to the meaning of the words, 'talks', 'fine' and 'fluently'. They are adverbs.

An adverb is a word which usually modifies or – adds to the meaning of a verb, adjective or another adverb.

Kinds of Adverbs

(i) Simple adverbs (ii) Interrogative adverbs (iii) Relative or Conjunctive adverbs.

I. Simple Adverbs

Simple adverbs are of the following kinds :

- (a) **Adverbs of time** : Now, then, before, after, ago, when, since, yet, still, soon, immediately, late, early, already, once, after wards, yesterday, to-day, tomorrow, gradually, formerly, shortly.
- (b) **Adverbs of Place** : Here, there, within, without, above, somewhere, away, below, inside, outside, up, down, far, near, every-where, forward, backward, in, out, anywhere.
- (c) **Adverbs of number** : Once, twice, thrice, again, seldom, always, often, firstly.
- (d) **Adverbs of manner or quality** : Slowly, quickly, badly, nicely, till, thus.
- (e) **Adverbs of degree or quantity** : Very, much, too, quite, partly, little, less, more, enough.
- (f) **Adverbs of reason or effect** : Hence, therefore, consequently.
- (g) **Adverbs of Affirmation and Negation** : Yes, no, perhaps, indeed, little, almost, not, nay, certainly, by all means.
- (h) **Adverbs of comparison** : So, as, thou.

II. Interrogative Adverbs :

These adverbs are used in asking questions. They also show, time, place, number, manner, quantity and cause. These are : when, where, how, long, how far, what.

Kinds of Interrogative Adverbs

- (i) Time : When and how long.
- (ii) Place : Where, whence.
- (iii) Manner or Quality : How.
- (iv) Number : How many.
- (v) Quantity or degree : How much.
- (vi) Cause or Reason : Why.

III. Relative Adverbs :

This adverb modifies a verb and joins two sentences, as :

This is the book which I bought.

He does not know the time when he came.

This is the reason why he failed.

Comparison of Adverbs :

Adverbs of quantity can be compared like adjectives :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Big	bigger	biggest
Fast	faster	fastest
Great	greater	greatest
Beautifully	more beautifully	most beautifully
Gladly	more gladly	most gladly

There are following adverbs which are compared irregularly :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Little	less	least
Far	farther	farthest
Forth	further	furthest
Well, good	better	best
Ill, bad, evil	worse	worst

Formation of Adverbs :

Adverbs are formed in the following ways :

1. By adding 'ly'
 - (a) To adjective : Truly, faithfully, nicely, wisely.
 - (b) To nouns : Yearly, annually, weekly, daily.
 - (c) To participles : pleasingly, lovingly.
 - (d) To other adverbs : firstly, nearly, mostly.
2. By prefixing or adding a letter to preposition
 - (a) To nouns : ahead, aside, abroad, ashore, beside, to-day.
 - (b) To adjectives : Along, abroad, alone, before, behind, below.
 - (c) To other adverbs : Herewith, therein, henceforth.
3. By combining a noun and an adjective : sideways, midways, straightway, homeward, otherwise.
4. By using the nouns unchanged or by forming compounds as : piecemeal, length wise.

Common Errors in the use of Adverbs

Incorrect	Correct
1. He was enough kind to encourage me.	He was kind enough to encourage me.
2. I am in need of your help badly.	I am badly in need of your help.
3. Firstly I am disappointed with you, secondly I don't like your habits.	First I am disappointed with you, secondly I don't like your habits.
4. This load is very heavy for me to lift.	This load is too heavy for me to lift.

Incorrect	Correct
5. He only works when he likes.	He works only when he likes.
6. This book is much interesting.	This book is very interesting.
7. I was very much glad to meet you.	I was very glad to meet you.
8. Is it hot to-day ? No, it is.	Is it hot to-day ? No, it is not or yes, it is.
9. I only saw him to-day.	I saw him only today.
10. It is bitter cold to-day.	It is bitterly cold today.
11. I have read this book two years before.	I read this book two years ago.
12. This lesson is too difficult.	This lesson is very difficult.
13. Why does he run so fastly ?	Why does he run so fast ?
14. I am too pleased to see you.	I am very pleased to see you.
15. The train left lately.	The train left late.
16. He is very clever for me.	He is too clever for me.
17. He works hardly.	He works hard.
18. Sugar tastes sweetly.	Sugar tastes sweet

EXERCISE-XI

(a) Fill in the blanks with suitable adverbs given in the brackets :

1. I shall be happy to see you tomorrow. (much, very)
2. The patient was week to move. (too, much)
3. This sum is difficult for me to solve. (too, very)
4. It is hot here to work. (very, too)
5. He was kind to encourage me. (much, enough)
6. I shall be obliged for your help. (very, much)
7. He ran (fastly, fast)
8. He works (hardly, hard)
9. He is annoyed with me. (some-what, rather)
10. He was glad to be back home. (very, too)

(b) Correct the following sentences :

1. This book is very superior to that.
2. The guests were too tired when they reached here.
3. The students should work hardly.
4. This book is much interesting.
5. She is much angry with me.
6. Quinine tastes bitterly.
7. Seldom, he is in his room.
8. Medicine is supplied freely in this hospital.
9. It is extreme hot outside.
10. He was enough foolish to abuse his father.

(c) Use the following structures in sentences of your own :

ago, before, enough, too, only, seldom, extremely, quite well, rather, bitterly.