

Extension exercises

Chapter 5: Adverbs | Comments

Exploring English

The aim of this exercise is to raise awareness, so that you notice how adverbs are used in different styles of English more, and your response to these questions will depend on the texts you choose.

In general, the more formal the language and the more carefully language is used to express complex ideas:

- the greater the use of adverbs in structuring the text and marking logical relationships between ideas.
- the less use is made of adverbs of manner as a means of adding descriptive detail.

Obviously, the topic also affects the frequency and choice of adverbs.

Course materials

Responses to these questions will also vary according to the materials chosen. Generally, attention is paid to adverbs less systematically and comprehensively than to many other aspects of grammar (for example, tenses, passive forms and conditional sentences).

Some courses pay explicit attention to adverbs only in certain functional and grammatical contexts. For example, adverbs of frequency may be taught only in the context of the present simple tense; adverbs of manner may be taught primarily in order to practise comparative and superlative constructions.

Focusing adverbs and attitude markers may be taught on something of an ad hoc basis in relation to aspects of complex sentence construction and writing skills.

Different courses sometimes emphasise very different aspects of adverbs. For example, one course may focus on sentence positions while another may focus more on how adverbs are formed.