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T.Y.B.A. (w. e. f- 2021- 2022)- 2019 Pattern

Semester-V

Subject- Compulsory English

Unit- III: Grammar:1: Adverbs

Topic- Adverbs (Study Notes)

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Unit- III. Grammar Section

Adverbs

1. Definition and meaning of an Adverb:

An adverb is a word that is used to change, modify or qualify several types of words including an **adjective**, a **verb**, a **clause**, another **adverb**, or any other type of word or phrase, with the exception of determiners and adjectives, that directly modify nouns. According to ‘*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English*’ (Seventh edition), “an adverb is a word that adds more information about place, time, manner, cause or degree to a verb, an adjective, a phrase or another adverb.”

1. She was walking *rapidly*.
2. The kids love playing *together* in the sandbox.
3. Please come inside *now*.
4. You don’t *really* care, do you?
5. Robin is always hungry for success.
6. He is running fast.
7. Alex works hard.
8. He wrote that willingly.

2. Types of Adverbs:

There are different kinds of adverbs and these are adverbs of time, frequency, and duration, adverbs of place, adverbs of manners, adverbs of degree, linking adverbs, sentence adverbs, broad negative and adverbs that focus, etc. The types or kinds of adverbs can be described as follows.

I) Adverbs of time, frequency and duration:

a. Adverbs of time: Time adverbs describe how long and when an action occurred. These are widely used in English and their placement in the sentence is quite clear. Their positions are generally at the end of the sentence. Some adverbs tell us when something happens. Adverbs of time include words that refer to specific times and more general time periods. For example, ‘*today*’, ‘*yesterday*’, ‘*tomorrow*’, ‘*tonight*’, ‘*soon*’, ‘*later*’, ‘*now*’, ‘*usually*’, ‘*eventually*’, ‘*forever*’, ‘*still*’, ‘*yet*’, ‘*early*’, ‘*late*’, ‘*recently*’, ‘*since*’, etc.

1. The event is starting now.

Answer: now-Adverb of time

b. Adverbs of frequency: Adverbs of frequency are used to express time or how often something occurs. Frequency adverbs such as weekly, daily, quarterly or annually tell the listener how often an action takes place. A number of adverbs are used to describe the frequency of an event. By doing so, these adverbs describe how often something happens. For example, *'constantly', 'frequently', 'occasionally', 'sometimes', 'usually', 'never', 'always', 'rarely', 'daily', 'weekly', 'monthly', 'yearly', etc.*

1. He often practices piano.

Answer: often-Adverb of frequency

c. Adverbs of duration: Adverbs of duration tell us how long something happened. They include; *'briefly', 'forever', 'long', 'shortly', 'permanently', 'temporarily', etc.*

II) Adverbs of place: Adverbs of place are words which describe the location where the action of the verb takes place. Adverbs of place are associated with the action of the verb in a sentence, providing context for direction, distance and position. Location adverbs inform the speaker about the location where an action occurred. For example, *'around', 'downstairs', 'underneath', etc.*

1. He still comes here.

Answer: here-Adverb of place

III) Adverbs of manner: Time adverbs describe how long and when an action occurred. These are widely used in English and their placement in the sentence is quite clear. Their positions are generally at the end of the sentence. Adverbs of manner refer to the manner in which something is done or takes place. Some adverbs commonly used to express this are, *'beautifully', 'carefully', 'silently', 'slowly', 'rapidly', 'sadly' etc.*

1. They handled the job enthusiastically.

Answer: enthusiastically-Adverb of manner

IV) Adverbs of degree: Degree adverbs like very, too, extremely or enough give us information about the density of something. Generally, adverbs of degree describe the intensity of an action or quality. These adverbs are often used as intensifiers to describe adjectives and other adverbs. For example, *'very', 'really', 'extremely', 'incredibly', 'too', 'quite', 'barely', 'deeply', 'fairly', 'greatly', 'hardly', 'highly', 'intensely', 'somewhat', 'totally', 'little', 'less', 'least', 'much', 'more', 'most', 'almost', 'badly', 'terribly', 'well', etc.*

1. Their performance was immensely brilliant.

Answer: immensely-Adverb of degree

V) **Linking or conjunctive adverbs:** Linking adverbs are adverbs that are used to link ideas or clauses in spoken discourse or written text. They could also be called conjunctive adverbs in so far as they perform the same sort of function as conjunctions. For example, '*consequently*', '*furthermore*', '*however*', etc.

VI) **Sentence adverbs:** In English grammar, a sentence adverb is a word that modifies a whole sentence or clause within a sentence. A sentence adverb is also known as a sentence adverbial or a disjunctive. For example, '*alas*', '*apparently*', '*chiefly*', '*however*', etc.

1. Also, a firm may establish a probationary period.

Answer: Also-Sentence adverb

VII) **Broad negative adverbs:** Some adverbs have a negative meaning. They are called as broad negative adverbs. For example, '*barely*', '*hardly*', '*rarely*', '*scarcely*', '*seldom*', '*little*', '*never*', etc.

1. Hardly had we left the hotel when it started to pour with rain.

Answer: Hardly-Broad negative adverb

VIII) **Focusing adverbs:** Focusing adverbs point to a particular part of a clause. Most common examples are: '*also*', '*just*', '*even*', '*only*', '*mainly*', '*mostly*', '*either*', '*neither*', '*especially*', '*only*', etc.

1. I wouldn't particularly like to move to a modern house.

Answer: particularly-Focusing adverb

3. Formation of Adverbs:

Many adverbs of manner and some adverbs of degree are formed by adding *-ly* to the corresponding adjectives: *brave-bravely*, *slow-slowly*; *grave-gravely*, etc.

Here are few general rules regarding the changes in spelling when *-ly* is added:

1. The final 'y' changes to 'i': *happy-happily*
2. The final 'e' is retained: *extreme-extremely*. But *true*, *due*, and *whole* become *truly*, *duly* and *wholly*.
3. Adjectives ending in 'able'/'ible' drop the final 'e' and add 'y': *capable-capably*, *sensible-sensibly*
4. Adjectives ending in a vowel + 'l' follows the usual rule: *beautiful-beautifully*, *final-finally*, etc.

But there are notable exceptions.

1. Adverbs cannot be formed by just adding '*-ly*'

- To most classifying adjectives like *eastern, female, foreign, urban,* etc.
 - To most colour adjectives like *red, green, yellow,* etc.
 - To adjectives ending in ‘-ly’ *friendly, likely, lonely,* etc., though *kindly, daily, monthly* and *yearly* can be used both as adjectives and as adverbs.
 - To some very qualitative adjectives which refer to basic qualities like *young, big, small, tiny, fat, old, wet,* etc.
2. The following adjectives do not form adverbs at all: *afraid, awake, little, alive, standard, ill, drunk, asleep, sorry, hurt, long, alone, good, content, difficult,* etc.
 3. Some adverbs differ in meaning with, or have a narrower meaning than, their corresponding adjectives. For example, *hotly, warmly, coolly, coldly,* etc., usually express feelings:
 - a. We received them *coldly*. (in an unfriendly way)
 - b. They denied the accusation *hotly*. (indignantly)
 - c. This has been a long *hard* (adj.) day. Her bedroom was so small she could *hardly* (adv.) move in it.
 - d. She welcomed us *warmly*. (in a friendly way)
 4. In some cases, the adverb has the same form as an adjective and is similar in meaning. For example, *fast* is an adverb in ‘News travels *fast*’ and an adjective in ‘She likes *fast* cars’. In such cases, the adverb is usually placed immediately after the verb or object, and rarely in front of the verbs.
 5. Some adverbs are not related to adjectives at all: for example. ‘It will *soon* be the holydays.’
 6. If there is no adverb related to adjective and additional information about an event or situation is required, a prepositional phrase is used often: for example, ‘He stood up *slowly* and *with difficulty*.’
 7. Sometimes two adverbs are related to the same adjective. One adverb has the same form as the adjective, and the other is formed by adding ‘-ly’. For example,

He closed his eyes *tight*. He closed his eyes *tightly*.

In such cases, the ‘-ly’ adverb often has a different meaning compared to the adverb with the same form as the adjective. For example,

He has worked *hard*. He could *hardly* make himself heard above the din.

4. Comparison of Adverbs:

Some adverbs (only adverbs of *manner, degree* and *time*), like adjectives, have three degrees of comparison.

1. The comparative and the superlative forms of most adverbs of one syllable are made by adding ‘-er’ and ‘-est’ after the positive:

<i>fast</i>	<i>faster</i>	<i>fastest</i>
<i>soon</i>	<i>sooner</i>	<i>soonest</i>

2. The comparative and superlative forms of ‘-ly’ adverbs are made by using *more* and *most* before the adverbs, except in the case of *early*, *earlier*, *earliest*:

<i>skillfully</i>	<i>most skillfully</i>	<i>most skillfully</i>
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3. Many common adverbs form their comparative and superlative degrees irregularly:

<i>well</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>best</i>
<i>little</i>	<i>less</i>	<i>least</i>
<i>near</i>	<i>nearer</i>	<i>next</i>

4. Sometimes, two adverbs are put together, joined by conjunctions ‘*and*’, for example:
- I warned him *again and again*.
 - His fame has spread *far and wide*.
 - He *now and then* speaks on financial matters.

Multiple Choice Questions

- The driver stopped the bus _____.
A. Financially
B. Exactly
C. Abruptly
D. Now
- During autumn, colourful leaves can be seen falling _____ from trees.
A. Everywhere
B. Very
C. Gently
D. Loudly
- My grandmother always smiled _____.
A. Cheerfully
B. Sadly

C. Never

D. Yesterday

4. After the party, confetti was strewn _____.

A. Blandly

B. Everywhere

C. Later

D. Carefully

5. It's time to go _____.

A. Before

B. Now

C. Yesterday

D. Lightly

6. An -----describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

A. Adjective

B. Noun

C. Adverb

Conjunction

7. Adverb of----- say when something happens.

A. Time

B. Manner

C. Frequency

D. Degree

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