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Aomori Prefecture English Education
Society



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

副詞の役割って何？

副詞はまさに副える詞（ことば）。さてそのお相手（修飾先）は？動詞？形容詞？それとも親戚の副詞？もしくは文？今回は、程度や頻度など5つの観点で詳述や情報の追加などについて整理しています。それでは詳細を見ていきましょう。

Adverbs: An Important *Addition* to Any Statement

Adverb: a word that modifies and describes in a way that shows manner (*the how about something*), degree (*how much about something*), place (*the where about something*), time (*the when about something*), and frequency (*the how often about something*). Adverbs are important because they are the part of the sentence that adds additional detail and information; they are arguably the part of the sentence that makes a string of words interesting and meaningful.

Some Simple Examples

1. An adverb modifying a verb: He sings + (manner: how he sings) = He sings *energetically*.
2. ... modifying an adjective: She is tall + (how tall) = She is *very* tall.
3. ... another adverb: The performance ended + quickly + (manner) = The performance ended *too* quickly.
4. ... a sentence: I brought an umbrella + (that was good) = *Fortunately*, I brought an umbrella.

A Closer Look

Using adverbs is about adding to a core statement; adverbs add detail and additional information. The following two examples show an adverb connecting with a verb in a way to add to a core statement. “My dog waits for his food” can be more meaningfully expanded to “My dog *always* waits for his food,” which can be further expanded to “My dog *always* waits *patiently* for his food (but not today ... I wonder why?)” The opposite of this would be “My dog *rarely* waits *patiently* for his food (but he is today ... I wonder why?)” For another example, think about which response to your proposal sounds better: “I will consider your suggestion” versus “I will *seriously* and *sincerely* consider your suggestion.”

More Examples

A lake can be beautiful, but some lakes are *somewhat beautiful* (= not so beautiful) while other lakes are

quite beautiful (= very beautiful). A book can be (or maybe 'should be'?) interesting, but a book might be only *relatively interesting* or rather perhaps *more interesting* than any other book on your bookshelf. You can be late to a meeting, but you might actually be *only slightly late* rather than being *really late* (but in any case, you are *late* to the meeting). *The weather forecast in the newspaper is right for once* would refer to a present, one-time statement of surprise that the newspaper *actually* 'got it right.' *The weather forecast in the newspaper is always right* might be saying a bit too much (is any weather forecast *always* right?) ... leaving us with: *The newspaper weather forecast is almost always right* ... which is a bit stronger than *The newspaper weather forecast is usually right*.

Other Things to Think About

It does matter where the adverb is 'put' in a sentence and it can help you to remember to use them.

Adverbs can be used at the beginning, the middle or the end of a sentence. Consider the following:

Silently, she snuck into the kitchen for a midnight snack. = she *silently snuck* ...

Knowing he would be scolded, he *cautiously* went in. = he went in *cautiously* because he knew ...

In order to catch the bus, we had to run *quickly*. = we had to run *quickly* in order to ...

Another example showing the importance of adverb place is to consider the difference between *I almost dropped all those important papers I was holding (but in the end, I didn't drop any)* versus *I dropped almost all those important papers I was holding (...I didn't drop them all ... I managed to hold onto some)*. Likewise, be careful with 'only': *She only fed the cat* is very different from *She fed only the cat*. The former means she didn't do anything else ... the latter means the dog and the other pets are still hungry.

If you want more about adverbs go to: "What is an Adverb? Definition, Types & Examples" at <https://www.scribbr.com/parts-of-speech/adverbs/> or "Grammarly: What is an Adverb? Definitions and Examples" at

[https://www.grammarly.com/blog/adverb/#:~:text=An%20adverb%20is%20a%20word,brought%20an%20umbrella."\)](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/adverb/#:~:text=An%20adverb%20is%20a%20word,brought%20an%20umbrella.)

Next REAL ENGLISH: NOVEMBER !

◇いよいよ気温も落ち着いて新学期の開始です。教育実習、お疲れ様でした。実習を経験してさらに教員の魅力に改めて気づいた方もいることでしょう。もしかしたら自信を失った人もいるかもしれませんが、しかし、大丈夫です。学校現場は皆さんをサポートします。どんな仕事であっても最初から完璧はありません。偏向報道に流されず、一生やりがいのある素晴らしい職業に是非就いてください。英語の実力養成もたくさん失敗してこそ成長しますよ。(文責 伴)

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