

Adverb – advanced usage & inversion after adverbs

Level: C1

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ADVERBS MODIFYING THE WHOLE SENTENCE

Adverb modifying the whole sentence (also known as [sentence adverbs](#)) usually express a speaker's or narrator's opinion.

SENTENCE ADVERBS – POSSIBLE POSITION:

After a verb "to be":

Example:

She is **obviously** intelligent.

Before the main verb or between auxiliary and main verb:

Example:

He **actually** sold his house!
He has **actually** sold his house!

At the beginning and the end:

Example:

Unfortunately, Mark didn't pass the exam.
No one got hurt, **fortunately**.

Example of sentence adverbs:

actually	fortunately	presumably
apparently	luckily	undoubtedly
certainly	naturally	unfortunately

evidently

obviously

thankfully

ADVERBS ENDING WITH –WARDS AND –WISE

Adverbs ending with **–wards** and **–wise** (this group also includes words with endings **–ward** and **–ways**) refers to the physical direction:

Example:

She glanced **sideways** at the visitor.
Move **forward**.
If you look **upwards**, you will see a big bird in the sky.

Figuratively adverbs with ending **–wise** refers to orientation and perspectives concerning the sentence. We create them by adding **–wise** to a noun.

Example:

Healthwise, I don't have any problems.
The twin sisters were always dressed **likewise**.

Excluding adverbs as **likewise** and **otherwise**, those expressions shall not be overused.

INVERSION USED AFTER ADVERBS

After some adverbs and adverbial phrases, you can use inversion.

As a result of moving adverb to the beginning of the sentence, the emphasis is placed on the ban, negation or dramatic nature of a statement.

Here are some adverbs and adverbial phrases which most often undergoes inversion:

adverbs and adverbial phrases	example
hardly ever	He hardly ever spoke English. Hardly ever did he speak English.
hardly...when	He had hardly stepped outside when it started to rain. Hardly had he stepped outside when it started to rain.
in/ under no circumstances	We can accept the offer under no circumstances . Under no circumstances can we accept the offer.
never	I had never seen so many people in one room. Never had I seen so many people in one room.
not only	She is not only a talented singer but also an amazing actress. Not only is she a talented singer but also an amazing

	actress
nowhere	He was nowhere to be found. Nowhere was he to be found.
only	He looked for his ticket only after he arrived at the station. Only after he arrived at the station did he look for his ticket.
scarcely.... when	I had scarcely entered the room when the telephone rang. Scarcely had I entered the room when the telephone rang.