

4 Adverbs

28 Kinds of adverbs

Manner: *bravely, fast, happily, hard, quickly, well* (see 35)

Place: *by, down, here, near, there, up* (36)

Time: *now, soon, still, then, today, yet* (37)

Frequency: *always, never, occasionally, often, twice* (38)

Sentence: *certainly, definitely, luckily, surely* (40)

Degree: *fairly, hardly, rather, quite, too, very* (41)

Interrogative: *when? where? why?* (60)

Relative: *when, where, why* (75 E)

Form and use

29 The formation of adverbs with **ly**

A Many adverbs of manner and some adverbs of degree are formed by adding **ly** to the corresponding adjectives:

grave, gravely immediate, immediately slow, slowly

Spelling notes

(a) A final **y** changes to **i**: *happy, happily*.

(b) A final **e** is retained: *extreme, extremely*.

Exceptions: *true, due, whole* become *truly, duly, wholly*.

(c) Adjectives ending in **able/ible** drop the final **e** and add **y**:

capable, capably sensible, sensibly

(d) Adjectives ending in a vowel + **l** follow the usual rule:

beautiful, beautifully final, finally

B Exceptions

The adverb of **good** is **well**.

kindly can be adjective or adverb, but other adjectives ending in **ly**, e.g. **friendly, likely, lonely** etc., cannot be used as adverbs and have no adverb form. To supply this deficiency we use a similar adverb or adverb phrase:

likely (adjective) *friendly* (adjective) *probably* (adverb) *in a friendly way* (adverb phrase)

C Some adverbs have a narrower meaning than their corresponding adjectives or differ from them. **coldly, coolly, hotly, warmly** are used mainly of feelings:

We received them coldly, (in an unfriendly way)

They denied the accusation hotly, (indignantly)

She welcomed us warmly, (in a friendly way)

But **warmly dressed** = wearing warm clothes.

coolly = **calmly/courageously** or **calmly/impudently**;

He behaved very coolly in this dangerous situation.

presently = **soon**: He'll be here presently. (See also 30 B. For **barely, scarcely**, see 44. For **surely**, see 40 A.)

30 Adverbs and adjectives with the same form

A	back	hard*	little	right*
	deep*	high*	long	short*
	direct*	ill	low	still
	early	just*	much/more/most*	straight
	enough	kindly	near*	well
	far	late*	pretty*	wrong*
	fast	left		

*See B below.

Used as adverbs:

Come back soon.
You can dial Rome direct.
The train went fast.
They worked hard. (energetically)
an ill-made road
Turn right here.
She went straight home.
He led us wrong.

Used as adjectives:

the back door
the most direct route.
a fast train
The work is hard
You look ill/well
the right answer
a straight line
This is the wrong way.

B Starred words above also have **ly** forms. Note the meanings.

deeply is used chiefly of feelings:

He was deeply offended.

directly can be used of time or connection:

He'll be here directly, (very soon)

The new regulations will affect us directly/indirectly. (For hardly, see 44.)

highly is used only in an abstract sense:

He was a highly paid official. They spoke very highly of him.

justly corresponds to the adjective just (fair, right, lawful), but just can also be an adverb of degree. (See 41.)

lately = recently: *Have you seen him lately?*

mostly = chiefly

nearly = almost: *I'm nearly ready.*

prettily corresponds to the adjective **pretty** (attractive):

Her little girls are always prettily dressed.

But **pretty** can also be an adverb of degree meaning very:

The exam was pretty difficult.

rightly can be used with a past participle to mean **justly** or **correctly**:

He was rightly/justly punished.

I was rightly/correctly informed.

But in each case the second adverb would be more usual.

shortly = soon, briefly or curtly.

wrongly can be used with a past participle:

You were wrongly (incorrectly) informed.

But *He acted wrongly* could mean that his action was either incorrect or morally wrong.

C **long** and **near** (adverbs) have a restricted use.

1 **long**

longer, longest can be used without restriction:

It took longer than I expected.

But long is used mainly in the negative or interrogative:

How long will it take to get there? ~ It won't take long.

In the affirmative **too/so + long** or **long + enough** is possible. Alternatively a long time can be used:

I would take too long.

It would take a long time.

In conversation (**for**) **a long time** is often replaced by (**for**) **ages**:

I waited for ages.

It took us ages to get there.

2 **near**

nearer, nearest can be used without restriction:

Don't come any nearer.

But **near** in the positive form is usually qualified by **very/quite/so/too** or **enough**:

They live quite near. Don't come too near.

You're near enough.

The preposition **near** with noun, pronoun or adverb is more generally useful:

Don't go near the edge.

The ship sank near here.

D **far** and **much** also have a restricted use. See 32 and 33.

31 Comparative and superlative adverb forms

A With adverbs of two or more syllables we form the comparative and superlative by putting more and most before the positive form:

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
quickly	more quickly	most quickly
fortunately	more fortunately	most fortunately

Single-syllable adverbs, however, and **early**, add **er**, **est**:

hard	harder	hardest
early	earlier	earliest (note the y becomes i)

B Irregular comparisons:

well	better	best
badly	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	farther	farthest (of distance only)
	further	furthest (used more widely; see 32 A)

32 far, farther/farthest and further/furthest

A **further, furthest**

These, like **farther/farthest**, can be used as adverbs of place/distance:

It isn't safe to go any further/farther in this fog.

But they can also be used in an abstract sense:

Mr A said that these toy pistols should not be on sale.

Mr B went further and said that no toy pistols should be sold.

Mr C went furthest of all and said that no guns of any kind should be sold.

B **far**: restrictions on use

far in the comparative and superlative can be used quite freely:

He travelled further than we expected.

far in the positive form is used chiefly in the negative and interrogative:

How far can you see? ~ I can't see far.

In the affirmative **a long way** is more usual than **far**, and **a long way away** is more usual than **far away**:

They sailed a long way. He lives a long way away.

But **very far away** is possible, and so is **so/quite/too + far** and **far + enough**:

They walked so far that... They walked too far.

We've gone far enough.

far can be used with an abstract meaning;

The new law doesn't go far enough.

You've gone too far! (You've been too insulting/overbearing/insolent etc.)

far, adverb of degree, is used with comparatives or with **too/so + positive forms**:

She swims far better than I do. He drinks far too much.

33 much, more, most

A **more** and **most** can be used fairly freely:

You should ride more. I use this room most.

But **much**, in the positive form, has a restricted use.

B **much** meaning **a lot** can modify negative verbs:

He doesn't ride much nowadays.

In the interrogative **much** is chiefly used with **how**. In questions without **how**, **much** is possible but **a lot** is more usual:

How much has he ridden? Has he ridden a lot/much?

In the affirmative **as/so/too + much** is possible. Otherwise **a lot/ a good deal/a great deal** is

preferable:

He shouts so much that... I talk too much.

But *He rides a lot/a great deal.*

- C **very much** meaning **greatly** can be used more widely in the affirmative. We can use it with *blame, praise, thank* and with a number of verbs concerned with feelings: *admire, amuse, approve, dislike, distress, enjoy, impress, like, object, shock, surprise* etc.:

Thank you very much. They admired him very much.

She objects very much to the noise they make.

much (= **greatly**), with or without *very*, can be used with the participles *admired, amused, disliked, distressed, impressed, liked, shocked, struck, upset*:

He was (very) much admired.

She was (very) much impressed by their good manners.

- D **much** meaning a lot can modify comparative or superlative adjectives and adverbs:
much better much the best much more quickly

much too can be used with positive forms:

He spoke much too fast.

- E **most** placed before an adjective or adverb can mean very. It is mainly used here with adjectives/adverbs of two or more syllables:

He was most apologetic. She behaved most generously. (See 21 C.)

34 Constructions with comparisons (see also 341)

When the same verb is required in both clauses we normally use an auxiliary for the second verb (see 22).

- A With the positive form we use **as ... as** with an affirmative verb, and **as/so ... as** with a negative verb:

He worked as slowly as he dared.

He doesn't snore as/so loudly as you do.

It didn't take as/so long as I expected.

- B With the comparative form we use **than**:

He eats more quickly than I do/than me.

He played better than he had ever played.

They arrived earlier than I expected.

the + comparative . . . **the** + comparative is also possible:

The earlier you start the sooner you'll be back.

- C With the superlative it is possible to use **of** + noun:

He went (the) furthest of the explorers.

But this construction is not very common and such a sentence would normally be expressed by a comparative, as shown above. A superlative (without **the**) + **of all** is quite common, but **all** here often refers to other actions by the same subject:

He likes swimming best of all. (better than he likes anything else) of all can then be omitted.

- D For comparisons with **like** and **as**, see 21 H, I.

Position

35 Adverbs of manner

- A Adverbs of manner come after the verb:

She danced beautifully

or after the object when there is one:

He gave her the money reluctantly. They speak English well.

Do not put an adverb between verb and object.

- B When we have verb + preposition + object, the adverb can be either before the preposition or after the object:

He looked at me suspiciously or *He looked suspiciously at me.*

But if the object contains a number of words we put the adverb before the preposition:

- He looked suspiciously at everyone who got off the plane.*
- C Similarly with verb + object sentences the length of the object affects the position of the adverb. If the object is short, we have verb + object + adverb, as shown in B above. But if the object is long we usually put the adverb before the verb:
She carefully picked up all the bits of broken glass.
He angrily denied that he had stolen the documents.
They secretly decided to leave the town.
- D Note that if an adverb is placed after a clause or a phrase, it is normally considered to modify the verb in that clause/phrase. If, therefore, we move *secretly* to the end of the last example above, we change the meaning:
They secretly decided . . . (The decision was secret.)
They decided to leave the town secretly. (The departure was to be secret.)
- E Adverbs concerned with character and intelligence, **foolishly, generously, kindly, stupidly** etc., when placed before a verb, indicate that the action was foolish/kind/generous etc.:
I foolishly forgot my passport. *He generously paid for us all.*
He kindly waited for me. *Would you kindly wait?*
- Note that we could also express such ideas by:
It was foolish of me to forget.
It was kind of him to wait.
Would you be kind enough to wait? (See 252.)
- The adverb can come after the verb or after verb + object, but the meaning then changes:
He spoke kindly = *His voice and words were kind*
Is not the same as It was kind of him to speak to us.
He paid us generously = *He paid more than the usual rate*
 is not the same as *It was generous of him to pay us.* Note the difference between:
He answered the questions foolishly (His answers were foolish) *and*
He foolishly answered the questions. (Answering was foolish./It was foolish of him to answer at all.)
- F **badly** and **well** can be used as adverbs of manner or degree. As adverbs of manner they come after an active verb, after the object or before the past participle in a passive verb:
He behaved badly. *He read well.*
He paid her badly. *She speaks French well.*
She was badly paid. *The trip was well organised.*
- badly** as an adverb of degree usually comes after the object or before, the verb or past participle:
The door needs a coat of paint badly/The door badly needs a coat of paint.
He was badly injured in the last match.
- well** (degree) and **well** (manner) have the same position rules:
I'd like the steak well done.
He knows the town well.
Shake the bottle well.
The children were well wrapped up.
- The meaning of **well** may depend on its position.
 Note the difference between:
You know well that I can't drive (There can be no doubt in your ... mind about this) *and*
You know that I can't drive well. (I'm not a good driver.)
- well** can be placed after **may/might** and **could** to emphasise the probability of an action:
He may well refuse = *It is quite likely that he will refuse.* (For *may/might* as well, see 288.)
- G **somehow, anyhow**
somehow (= in some way or other) can be placed in the front position or after a verb without object or after the object:
Somehow they managed. *They managed somehow.*
They raised the money somehow.
- anyhow** as an adverb of manner is not common. But it is often used to mean 'in any case/anyway'. (See 327.)

36 Adverbs of place

- away, everywhere, here, nowhere, somewhere, there** etc.
 A If there is no object, these adverbs are usually placed after the verb:

She went away.

He lives abroad.

Bill is upstairs.

But they come after verb + object or verb + preposition + object:

She sent him away.

I looked for it everywhere.

(But see chapter 38 for verb + adverb combinations such as *pick up, put down* etc.)

Adverb phrases, formed of preposition + noun/pronoun/adverb, follow the above position rules:

The parrot sat on a perch.

He stood in the doorway.

He lives near me.

But see also E below.

B **somewhere, anywhere** follow the same basic rules as **some** and **any**:

I've seen that man somewhere.

Can you see my key anywhere? ~ No. I can't see it anywhere.

Are you going anywhere? (ordinary question) but

Are you going somewhere? (I assume that you are.)

nowhere, however, is not normally used in this position except in the expression **to get**

nowhere (= to achieve nothing/to make no progress):

Threatening people will get you nowhere. (You'll gain no advantage by threatening people.)

But it can be used in short answers:

Where are you going? ~ Nowhere. (I'm not going anywhere.)

It can also, in formal English, be placed at the beginning of a sentence and is then followed by an inverted verb:

Nowhere will you find better roses than these. (See 45.)

C **here, there** can be followed by *be/come/go* + noun subject:

Here's Tom. There's Ann. Here comes the train.

There goes our bus.

here and **there** used as above carry more stress than **here/there** placed after the verb.

There is also usually a difference in meaning. *Tom is here* means he is in this room/building/town etc. But *Here's Tom* implies that he has just appeared or that we have just found him. *Tom comes here* means that it is his habit to come to this place, but *Here comes Tom* implies that he is just arriving/has just arrived.

If the subject is a personal pronoun, it precedes the verb in the usual way:

There he is. Here I am. Here it comes.

But **someone** and **something** follow the verb:

There's someone who can help you.

Note that the same sentence, spoken without stress on *There*, would mean that a potential helper exists. (See 117.)

D Someone phoning a friend may introduce himself/herself by name + **here**:

ANN (on phone): *Is that you, Tom? Ann here* or *This is Ann.*

She must not say *Ann is here* or *Here is Ann.*

E The adverbs **away** (= off), **down**, **in**, **off**, **out**, **over**, **round**, **up** etc. can be followed by a verb of motion + a noun subject:

Away went the runners.

Down fell a dozen apples.

Out sprang the cuckoo.

Round and round flew the plane.

But if the subject is a pronoun it is placed before the verb:

Away they went. Round and round it flew.

There is more drama in this order than in subject + verb + adverb but no difference in meaning.

F In written English adverb phrases introduced by prepositions (*down, from, in, on, over, out of, round, up* etc.) can be followed by verbs indicating position (*crouch, hang, He, sit, stand* etc.), by verbs of motion, by *be born, die, live* and sometimes other verbs:

From the rafters hung strings of onions.

In the doorway stood a man with a gun.

On a perch beside him sat a blue parrot.

Over the wall came a shower of stones.

The first three of these examples could also be expressed by a participle and the verb *be*:

Hanging from the rafters were strings of onions.

Standing in the doorway was a man with a gun.

Sitting on a perch beside him was a blue parrot.

But a participle could not be used with the last example unless the shower of stones lasted for some time.

37 Adverbs of time

- A **afterwards, eventually, lately, now, recently, soon, then, today, tomorrow** etc. and adverb phrases of time: **at once, since then, till** (6.00 etc.)
These are usually placed at the very beginning or at the very end of the clause, i.e. in front position or end position. End position is usual with imperatives and phrases with **till**:
Eventually he came/He came eventually.
Then we went home/We went home then.
Write today. I'll wait till tomorrow.
(For **lately, recently**, see also 185.)
With compound tenses, **afterwards, eventually, lately, now, recently, soon** can come after the auxiliary:
We'll soon be there.
- B **before, early, immediately** and **late** come at the end of the clause:
He came late. I'll go immediately.
But **before** and **immediately**, used as conjunctions, are placed at the beginning of the clause:
Immediately the rain stops we'll set out.
- C **since** and **ever since** are used with perfect tenses (see 187 D).
since can come after the auxiliary or in end position after a negative or interrogative verb; **ever since** (adverb) in end position. Phrases and clauses with **since** and **ever since** are usually in end position, though front position is possible:
He's been in bed since his accident/since he broke his leg.
- D **yet** and **still** (adverbs of time)
yet is normally placed after verb or after verb + object:
He hasn't finished (his breakfast) yet.
But if the object consists of a large number of words, **yet** can be placed before the verb:
He hasn't yet applied for the job we told him about.
still is placed after the verb **be** but before other verbs:
She is still in bed.
yet means 'up to the time of speaking'. It is chiefly used with the negative or interrogative, **still** emphasizes that the action continues. It is chiefly used with the affirmative or interrogative, but can be used with the negative to emphasize the continuance of a negative action:
He still doesn't understand. (The negative action of 'not understanding' continues.)
He doesn't understand yet. (The positive action of 'understanding' hasn't yet started.)
When stressed, **still** and **yet** express surprise, irritation or impatience. Both words can also be conjunctions (see 327).
- E **just**, as an adverb of time, is used with compound tenses:
I'm just coming. (See also 183.)
(For **Just** as an adverb of degree, see 41.)

38 Adverbs of frequency

- (a) **always, continually, frequently, occasionally, often, once, twice, periodically, repeatedly, sometimes, usually** etc.
(b) **ever, hardly ever, never, rarely, scarcely ever, seldom**
- A Adverbs in both the above groups are normally placed:
- 1 After the simple tenses of **to be**:
He is always in time for meals.
 - 2 Before the simple tenses of all other verbs:
They sometimes stay up all night.
 - 3 With compound tenses, they are placed after the first auxiliary, or, with interrogative verbs, after auxiliary + subject:
He can never understand.
- You have often been told not to do that. Have you ever ridden a camel? Exceptions

(a) used to and have to prefer the adverb in front of them:

You hardly ever have to remind him; he always remembers.

(b) Frequency adverbs are often placed before auxiliaries when these are used alone, in addition to remarks or in answers to questions:

Can you park your car near the shops? - Yes, I usually can.

I know I should take exercise, but I never do.

and when, in a compound verb, the auxiliary is stressed:

I never 'can remember. She hardly ever 'has met him.

Similarly when do is added for emphasis:

I always do arrive in time!

But emphasis can also be given by stressing the frequency adverb and leaving it in its usual position after the auxiliary:

You should 'always check your oil before starting.

B Adverbs in group (a) above can also be put at the beginning or end of a sentence or clause, Exceptions

always is rarely found at the beginning of a sentence/clause except with imperatives.

often, if put at the end, normally requires very or quite:

Often he walked. He walked quite often.

C Adverbs in group (b) above, **hardly ever, never, rarely** etc. (but not ever alone), can also be put at the beginning of a sentence, but inversion of the following main verb then becomes necessary:

Hardly/Scarcely ever did they manage to meet unobserved. (For hardly, barely, scarcely, see 44,) **hardly/scarcely ever, never, rarely** and **seldom** are not used with negative verbs.

D **never, ever**

never is chiefly used with an affirmative verb, never with a negative. It normally means 'at no time':

He never saw her again. I've never eaten snails. They never eat meat. (habit) I've never had a better/light. (For never + comparative, see 21 C.) never + affirmative can sometimes replace an ordinary negative:

I waited but he never fumed up. (He didn't turn up.)

never + interrogative can be used to express the speaker's surprise at the non-performance of an action:

Has he never been to Japan? I'm surprised, because his wife is Japanese.

ever means 'at any time' and is chiefly used in the interrogative:

Has he ever marched in a demonstration? ~ No, he never has.

ever can be used with a negative verb and, especially with compound tenses, can often replace never + affirmative:

I haven't ever eaten snails.

This use of ever is less common with simple tenses.

ever + affirmative is possible in comparisons (see 21 C) and with suppositions and expressions of doubt:

/ don't suppose he ever writes to his mother. (For hardly/scarcely + ever, see A-C above. For ever after how etc., see 85.)

39 Order of adverbs and adverb phrases of manner, place and time when they occur in the same sentence

Expressions of manner usually precede expressions of place:

He climbed awkwardly out of the window.

He'd study happily anywhere.

But away, back, down, forward, home, in, off, on, out, round and up usually precede adverbs of manner:

He walked away sadly. She looked back anxiously.

They went home quietly. They rode on confidently. (See also 36 E.)

here and there do the same except with the adverbs hard, well, badly: He stood there silently but They work harder here. Time expressions can follow expressions of manner and place:

They worked hard in the garden today.

He lived there happily for a year. But they can also be in front position:

Every day he queued patiently at the bus stop.

40 Sentence adverbs

These modify the whole sentence/clause and normally express the speaker's/narrator's opinion.

A Adverbs expressing degrees of certainty

(a) actually (= in fact/really), apparently, certainly, clearly, evidently, obviously, presumably, probably, undoubtedly

(b) definitely

(c) perhaps, possibly, surely Adverbs in group (a) above can be placed after be:

He is obviously intelligent. before simple tenses of other verbs:

They certainly work hard. He actually lives next door. after the first auxiliary in a compound verb:

They have presumably sold their house.

at the beginning or at the end of a sentence or clause:

Apparently he knew the town well.

He knew the town well apparently.

definitely can be used in the above positions but is less usual at the beginning of a sentence.

perhaps and possibly are chiefly used in front position, though the end position is possible.

surely is normally placed at the beginning or end, though it can also be , next to the verb. It is used chiefly in questions:

Surely you could pay £1 ? You could pay £1, surely? Note that though the adjectives sure and certain mean more or less the same, the adverbs differ in meaning. certainly - definitely:

He was certainly there; there is no doubt about it. But surely indicates that the speaker is not quite sure that the statement which follows is true. He thinks it is, but wants reassurance.

Surely he was there? (I fee! almost sure that he was.)

B Other sentence adverbs

admittedly, (unfortunately, frankly, honestly*, (un)luckily, naturally*, officially* etc- are usually in the front position though the end position is possible. They are normally separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma. Starred adverbs can also be adverbs of manner.

Honestly, Tom didn't geS the money. (Sentence adverb, honestly

here means 'truthfully'. The speaker is assuring us that Tom didn't get the money.)

Tom didn't get the money honestly (adverb of manner) = Tom got

the money dishonestly.

41 Adverbs of degree

absolutely, almost, barely, completely, enough, entirely, ->« extremely, fairly, far, hardly, just, much, nearly, only, quite,

rather, really, scarcely, so, too, very etc.

For (a) little, see 5 D; for fairly and rather, see 42; for hardly, scarcely, barely, see 44; for quite, see 43.)

An adverb of degree modifies an adjective or another adverb, it is placed before the adjective or adverb:

You are absolutely right. I'm almost ready. :y But enough follows its adjective or adverb:

The box isn't big enough. He didn't work quickly enough. (See also 252 B.)

far requires a comparative, or too + positive:

If is far better to say nothing. He drives far too fast.

could replace far here. It can also be used with a superlative:

solution is much the best.

C The following adverbs of degree can also modify verbs:

almost, barely, enough, hardly, just, (a) little, much, nearly, quite, rather, really and scarcely- All except much are then placed before the main verb, like adverbs of frequency (see 38).

He almost/nearly fell. I am Just going.

Tom didn't like it much but I really enjoyed it. (For much, see 33. For (a) little, see 5 D.)

D only can also modify verbs. In theory it is placed next to the word to which it applies, preceding verbs, adjectives and adverbs and preceding or following nouns and pronouns:

(a) He had only six apples, (not more than six)

(b) He only lent the car. (He didn't give it.)

(c) He lent the car to me only. (not to anyone else)

(d) I believe only half of what he said. But in spoken English people usually put it before the verb, obtaining the required meaning by stressing the word to which the only applies:

He only had 'six apples is the same as (a) above. He only lent the car to 'me is the same as (c) above. / only believe 'hat/etc, is the same as (d) above-

E just, like only, should precede the word it qualifies:

I'll buy just one. I had just enough money. It can also be placed immediately before the

verb:

I'll just buy one. I just had enough money. But sometimes this change of order would change the meaning:

Just sign here means This is all you have to do. Sign just here means Sign in this particular spot.

fairly, rather, quite, hardly etc.

42 fairly and rather

A Both can mean 'moderately', but fairly is chiefly used with 'favourable adjectives and adverbs (.bravely, good, nice, well etc.), while rather is chiefly used in this sense before 'unfavourable' adjectives and adverbs (bad, stupidly, ugly etc.):

Tom is fairly clever, but Peter is rather stupid.

I walk fairly fast but Ann walks rather slowly. Both can be used similarly with participles:

He was fairly relaxed; she was rather tense.

a fairly interesting film a rather boring book The indefinite article, if required, precedes fairly but can come before or after rather:

a fairly light box a rather heavy box/rather a heavy box With adjectives/adverbs such as fast, slow, thin, thick, hot, cold etc., which are not in themselves either 'favourable' or

'unfavourable', the speaker can express approval by using fairly and disapproval by using rather: This soup is fairly hot implies that the speaker likes hot soup, while This soup is rather hot implies that it is a little too hot for him.

it rather can be used before alike, like, similar, different etc. and before comparatives. It then means 'a little' or 'slightly':

Siamese cats are rather like dogs in some ways.

The weather was rather worse than I had expected. rather a is possible with certain nouns:

disappointment, disadvantage, nuisance, pity, shame and sometimes joke:

It's rather a nuisance (= a little inconvenient) that we can't park here.

It's rather a shame (= a little unfair) that he has to work on

Sundays. fairly cannot be used in these ways.

C rather can be used before certain 'favourable' adjectives/adverbs such as amusing, clever, good, pretty, well but its meaning then changes; it becomes nearly equivalent to very, and the idea of disapproval vanishes: She is rather clever is nearly the same as She is very clever.

rather used in this way is obviously much more complimentary than fairly. For example the expression If is a fairly good play would, if anything, discourage others from going to see it.

But It is rather a good play is definitely a recommendation. Occasionally rather used in this way conveys the idea of surprise:

/ suppose the house was filthy. - No, as a matter of fact it was

rather clean.

D rather can also be used before enjoy, like and sometimes before dislike, object and some similar verbs:

/ rather like the smell of petrol. He rather enjoys queueing. rather can be used in short answers to questions with the above verbs:

Do you like him? - Yes I do, rather.

rather + like/enjoy is often used to express a liking which is a surprise to others or to the speaker himself- But it can also be used to strengthen the verb: / rather like Tom implies more interest than I like Tom.

(For would rather, see 297, 298.)

<t3 quite ','; This is a confusing word because it has two meanings.

,'» It means 'completely' when it is used with a word or phrase which can ',' express the idea of completeness (all right, certain, determined, empty.

/gin finished, full, ready, right, sure, wrong etc.) and when it is used '1'1'H ..i,^1" a very strong adjective/adverb such as amazing, extraordinary, '.'^ horrible, perfect:

The pottle was quite empty. You're quite wrong. It's quite extraordinary; I can't understand it at all.

B When used with other adjectives/adverbs, quite has a slightly weakening effect, so that quite good is normally less complimentary than good. quite used in this way has approximately the same meaning as fairly but its strength can vary very much according to the way it is stressed:

quite 'good (weak quite, strong good) is very little less than 'good'. 'quite ^good (equal stress) means 'moderately good'. 'quite good (strong quite, weak good) is much less than 'good'. The less quite is stressed the stronger the following adjective/adverb becomes. The more quite is stressed the weaker its adjective/ adverb becomes. Note the position of a/an:
quite a long walk quite an old castle

44 hardly, scarcely, barely

hardly, scarcely and barely are almost negative in meaning. hardly is chiefly used with any, ever, at all or the verb can:

He has hardly any money, (very little money)

I hardly ever go out. (I very seldom go out.)

It hardly rained at all last summer.

Her case is so heavy that she can hardly lift it. But it can also be used with other verbs:

/ hardly know him. (I know him only very slightly.) Be careful not to confuse the adverbs hard and hardly:

He looked hard at it. (He stared at it.)

He hardly looked at it. (He gave it only a brief glance.) scarcely can mean 'almost not' and could replace hardly as used above: scarcely any/scarcely ever etc. But scarcely is chiefly used to mean 'not quite':

There were scarcely twenty people there, (probably fewer) (For hardly/scarcely with inversion, see 45 and 342 E.) barely means 'not more than/only just':

There were barely twenty people there, (only just twenty)

I can barely see it. (I can only just see it.)

Inversion of the verb

45 Inversion of the verb after certain adverbs

Certain adverbs and adverb phrases, mostly with a restrictive or negative sense, can for emphasis be placed first in a sentence or clause and are then followed by the inverted (i.e. interrogative) form of the verb. The most important of these are shown below. The numbers indicate paragraphs where an example will be found.

hardly ever (see 38 A, C)	on no account
hardly . . . when (342 E)	only by
in no circumstances	only in this way
neither/nor (112 D)	only then/when
never	scarcely ever
no sooner . . . than (342 E)	scarcely . . . when
not only	seldom
not till	so (112 A)
nowhere (36 B)	

I haven't got a ticket. ~ Neither/Nor have I.

I had never before been asked to accept a bribe.

Never before had I been asked to accept a bribe.

They not only rob you, they smash everything too.

Not only do they rob you, they smash everything too.

'He didn't realize that he had lost it till he got home.

Not till he got home did he realize that he had lost it.

This switch must not be touched on any account.

On no account must this switch be touched.

He was able to make himself heard only by shouting.

Only by shouting was he able to make himself heard.

He became so suspicious that ...

So suspicious did he become that ...

Note also that a second negative verb in a sentence can sometimes be expressed by nor with inversion:

He had no money and didn't know anyone he could borrow from.

He had no money, nor did he know anyone he could borrow from.

(neither would be less usual here.)

(For adverbs and adverb phrases followed by inversion of verb and noun subject, e.g. Up

went the rocket; By the door stood an armed guard, see36C, E, F.)