

Adverbs of Frequency

Adverbs of frequency tell us how often something happens/is the case, happened/was the case, will happen/will be the case, etc.

There are lots of them. Here are some examples:

		usually				
	constantly	normally		sometimes		
	habitually	mostly	often	occasionally	rarely	
always	chiefly	generally	frequently	sporadically	infrequently	never
	predominantly	commonly	repeatedly	intermittently	seldom	
	typically	largely	repeateury	spasmodically		
	continuously	regularly				

Where do they come in the sentence?

1. If the sentence has one verb in it (e.g. no auxiliary verb) we usually put the adverb in the middle of the sentence, i.e. after the subject and before the verb:



$\operatorname{Position} A$

subject	adverb	verb	predicate
Tom	usually	goes	to work by
			car.

2. The adverb usually comes after the verb "be":

Position B

subject	subject verb		predicate
Tom is		often	late.
Anne	isn't	usually	late.

This is not the case if we put the adverb at the beginning or end of the sentence for emphasis.

This rule also does not apply to short answers:

Speaker A: Is she usually on time?	<i>Speaker A:</i> Tell her not to be
	late.
Speaker A: Yes, she usually is.	<i>Speaker B:</i> She never is.



The rule is broken in other cases too, e.g.

<i>Speaker A:</i> What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be at school?										
Speak	er B	Ι	norr	nally	a	n	at scho	ol at this	but my teacher is	
							time,		ill.	
Speaker A: You're late again!										
Speak	er	I	usua	lly	am	la	late on Mondays because the traffic is so			
<i>B</i> :						b	ad.			
Speaker A: Tom is late again!										
Speaker Tom usually		lly	is	la	late!					
<i>B</i> :										
I never was any good at maths.										

3. If the sentence has more than one verb in it (e.g. auxiliary verb) we

usually put the adverb after the first part of the verb:



Position C

subject	verb1	adverb	verb 2	predicate
Ι	can	never	remember	his name.
Anne	doesn't	usually	smoke.	about the state of the school
The children	have	often	complained	toilets.

Exception:

In sentences with "have to" the adverb is in position A:

subject	adverb	verb1	verb 2	predicate
We	often	have to	wait	for the bus.

4. For emphasis we can put the adverb at the beginning or end of the

sentence.

At the end is unusual – we usually only put it there when we have forgotten to put it in earlier.



Position D

adverb	subject	verb1	predicate
Sometimes	we	გი	to school by
			bus.

Position E

subject	verb1	predicate	adverb
We	శ్రం	to school by	~ sometimes.
		bus	

Exceptions:

"Always" can't go at the beginning or end of the sentence.

"Never", "seldom", "rarely" can't go at the end of a sentence. They only go at the beginning of a sentence in "polemic statements". Then they have to be followed by the word order for guestions:

Never	has	there	been	a better time to overcome our differences!
Rarely	do	we	have	an opportunity like this to

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	Seldom	had	the orchestra	given	a worse performance.	

5. When using adverbs of frequency in the guestion form, put the adverb before the main verb.

Auxiliary verb	subject	Adverb	verb 1	predicate
Do	you	often	გი	to the cinema?

Position F

Exceptions:

"Never", "seldom", "rarely" and other adverbs of frequency with a negative sense are not usually used in the question form.

6. When using adverbs of frequency in the negative form, put the adverb before the main verb.



Position G

subject	Auxiliary	Adverb	verb 1	predicate
	verb			
They	don't	often	శ్రం	to the
				cinema.

Exceptions:

"Never", "seldom", "rarely" and other adverbs of frequency with a negative sense are not usually used in the negative form.

Many thanks to Claire Capellen for contributing this valuable resource!



Exercises

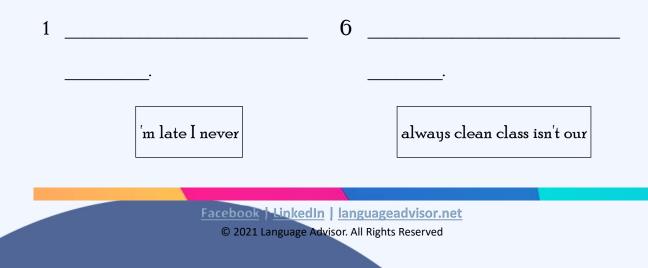
Put the adverbs in the box onto the scale in the correct order.

1._____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.___ 5.____ 6.___ never

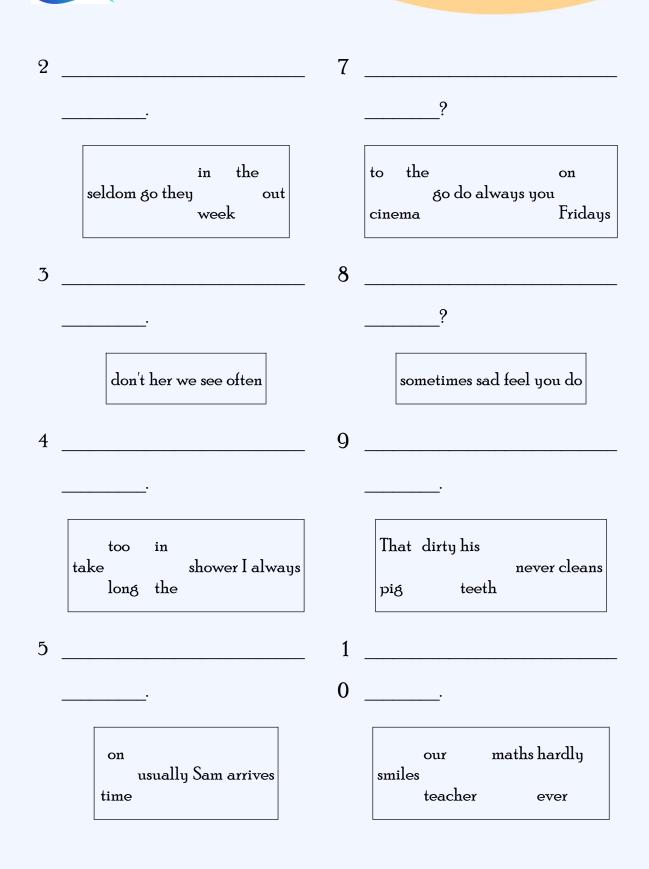
always	occasionally	sometimes	
hardly	often	usually	
ever	orten	usuany	

2. Order the words in the boxes below to make sentences. Remember that the adverbs go **after** the verb **to be** and **before** all the **other verbs**.

SPECIAL NOTE: sometimes you will see some of these adverbs at the beginning and at the end of sentences. However, that will **not** be accepted in my exercise because that's too easy, so raspberry to you.



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Rewrite the complete sentence using the adverb of frequency in brackets in its correct position.

- 1. They go to the movies. *(often)*
- 2. She listens to classical music. (rarely)
- 3. He reads the local newspaper. (sometimes)
- 4. Sara smiles. (never)
- 5. She complains about her husband. (always)
- 6. I drink coffee. *(sometimes)*
- 7. Frank is ill. (often)
- 8. He feels terrible *(usually)*
- 9. I go jogging in the morning. (always)



10. She helps her daughter with her homework. (never)

11. We watch television in the evening. (always)

12. I smoke. (never)

13. I eat meat. (seldom)

14. I eat vegetables and fruits. (always)