

## adverbs and adverbial phrases

- 1 I don't understand you when you speak **quickly**. The driver was **seriously** injured.
- 2 I **never** have breakfast. He's **always** late.
- 3 They'll be here **soon**. It rained **all day yesterday**.
- 4 I've **nearly** finished. We're **incredibly** tired. He works **a lot**.
- 5 **Unfortunately**, we arrived half an hour late. **Ideally**, we should leave at 10.00.

• Adverbs can describe an action (*he walked slowly*) or modify adjectives or other adverbs (*it's incredibly expensive, he works very hard*). They can either be one word (*often*) or a phrase (*once a week*).

- 1 **Adverbs of manner** (how somebody does something) usually go after the verb or phrase. However, with passive verbs they usually go in mid-position (before the main verb but after an auxiliary verb).
- 2 **Adverbs of frequency** go before the main verb but after the verb *to be*.

⚠ *sometimes / usually / normally* can go at the beginning of a sentence too.

- 3 **Adverbs of time** usually go at the end of a sentence or clause.

- 4 **Adverbs of degree** (which describe how much something is done or to modify an adjective).

- *extremely, incredibly, very*, etc. are used with adjectives and adverbs and go before them.
- *much* and *a lot* are often used with verbs and go after the verb or verb phrase.
- *a little / a bit* can be used with adjectives or verbs, e.g. *I'm a bit tired. She sleeps a bit in the afternoon.*

- 5 **Comment adverbs** (which give the speaker's opinion) usually go at the beginning of a sentence or clause. Other common comment adjectives are *luckily, clearly, obviously, apparently*, etc.

⚠ Most other adverbs go in mid-position, e.g. *I just need ten more minutes. She didn't even say goodbye.*

## 2C

- a Underline the adverb(s) or adverbial phrase(s) and correct the sentences which are wrong.

We're going to be unfortunately late. ✗ *Unfortunately, we're going to be late.*

We rarely go to bed before 11.30. ✓

- 1 She likes very much the theatre.
- 2 Dave was late for work yesterday.
- 3 Immediately the ambulance arrived.
- 4 They go usually jogging after work.
- 5 I was extremely tired last night.
- 6 They won easily the match because they played brilliantly.
- 7 I forgot your birthday almost.
- 8 We luckily had taken an umbrella.
- 9 She always eats healthily.
- 10 He's been apparently sacked.

- b Put the adverbs in brackets in the normal position in these sentences.

*Sadly* / I don't speak *very* good English. (sadly, very)

- 1 The building was damaged in the fire. (badly, last week)
- 2 We need to do something. (obviously, quickly)
- 3 Ben is at his friend's house. (often, in the evening)
- 4 She walked out and she didn't say goodbye. (just, even)
- 5 He drives fast. (always, extremely)
- 6 She danced at the ballet. (beautifully, last night)
- 7 She wasn't injured when she fell. (luckily, seriously)
- 8 He broke his leg when he was skiing. (apparently, nearly)
- 9 My father sleeps in the afternoon. (usually, a bit)