

Contemporary Grammar of English

Third Year 2020-2021

Asst. Prof. Mahdi Alasadi

First Semester

Week 1:

Lecture 2:

- Categories of Adverbial
- Types of Sentence Structure



The Difference Between Adverbs and Adverbials

"**Adverbs** and **adverbials** are similar but not the same. Though they share the same modifying function, their characters are different. An **adverbial** is a sentence element or functional category. It is a part of a sentence that performs a certain function. An **adverb**, on the other hand, is a type of word or part of speech. We can say that an adverb may serve as an adverbial, but an adverbial is not necessarily an adverb."

The adverb is a label for a syntactic category, covering familiar single-word items such as **quickly**, **happily**, and **spontaneously**. The adverbial refers to a function. Linguistic elements that have this function include adverbs plus other linguistic elements such as phrases (on the table, at the bookstore, next week, last year, etc.) and clauses (e.g., after he saw the movie)."



Categories of Adverbial

We can distinguish the following categories of adverbials:

- **Temporal adverbials** (e.g. *now, at five o'clock, today...etc*),
- **Spatial adverbials** (*here, north, up, at home*),
- **Process adverbials** (*carefully, slowly, quickly,etc*)

The list above is not complete for we have some other categories of adverbials like (manner adverbials, degree adverbials, and frequency adverbials).

Adverbials are very free in their placement, appearing in different positions in the sentence, not just sentence final:

- **sentence initial**: [Yesterday], I ran a marathon.
- **sentence final**: I ran a marathon [yesterday].
- **Preverbal**: I [always] run well in the heat.
- **Postverbal**: I handed the baton [quickly] to the next runner.
- **within the verb group**: I have [never] won a race.



Types of Sentence Structure

Central and peripheral elements of the clause

The classification of the constituents of the English sentence can be done either on the basis of the unit's form (its internal structure, as a noun phrase, or as a verb phrase), or on the basis of its FUNCTION (as a subject or an object of a clause). By function is meant a unit's 'privilege of occurrence', in terms of its position, mobility, optionality, etc.

According to the functional classification of the constituents of the sentence the following generalizations have been made by grammarians:

1. The verb element (V) is the most 'central' element that is preceded by the subject (S).
2. Following the verb there may be one or two objects (O), or a complement (C), which follows the object if one is present.



Types of Sentence Structure

Central and peripheral elements of the clause

1. The verb element (V) is the most 'central' element that is preceded by the subject (S).
2. Following the verb there may be one or two objects (O), or a complement (C), which follows the object if one is present.
3. The most peripheral element is the adverbial, which can occur either initially (in front of the subject), or finally (after the verb, and after the object or complement if one is present). Many adverbials, however, may also occur Medially.
4. A clause may contain a varied number of final adverbials.



Types of Sentence Structure

Central and peripheral elements of the clause

The distinction between 'centre' and 'periphery' can be illustrated in the following way. The verb element is the most 'central' element in that (i) its position is normally medial rather than initial or final; (ii) it is normally obligatory; (iii) it cannot normally be moved to a different position in the clause; and (iv) it helps to determine what other elements must occur.

For the opposite reasons, adverbials are the most peripheral elements: (i) their position is most frequently final; (ii) they are usually optional; (iii) they are mostly mobile; and (iv) they do not determine what other elements occur. They may be regarded, from a structural point of view, largely as 'optional extras', which may be added at will, so that it is not possible to give an exact limit to the number of adverbials a clause may contain. The other elements, subject, object, and complement, are in various degrees more peripheral than the verb, and less peripheral than the adverbial.



Types of Sentence Structure

Bringing together the distinctions that we have made earlier, the basic sentence structure rules can be presented as follows:

1. $S + V \{st. \& Int\} + A. place + (A. time)$, as in:
 - I have been in the garden (since lunch).
2. $S + V \{st. \& Int.\} + Cs + (A. place) + (A. time)$, as in:
 - My brother is a pathologist (at a public hospital) (now).
3. $S + V \{st. \& ext. \& tr.\} + Od + (A. place) + (A. time)$, as in:
 - I heard a strange noise (upstairs) (this morning).
4. $S + V \{dyn. \& Int.\} + Cs + (A. process) (A. place) (A. time)$, as in:
 - He grew restless (gradually) (in his office) (yesterday).
5. $S+V\{dyn. \& ext. \& mono-tr.\}+ Od+(A. process)(A. place)(A. time)$, as in:
 - She threw her purse (carelessly) (in the kitchen) (last night).
6. $S+V \{dyn. \& ext. \& di-tr.\} +(Oi) + Od+(A. process)(A. place)(A. time)$, as in:
 - He paid (them) some money (unwillingly) (in his office) (this morning).



Types of Sentence Structure



7. S + V{dyn. & ext. & comp. tr.} + Od + Co+ (A. pro.) (A.pl.)(A.t) as in:
- They elected Biden president (willingly) (in the US) (last month).
8. S + V{dyn. & ext. & Intr.} + (A. pro.) (A. place) (A. time), as in:
- Someone was laughing (loudly) (in the next room)(when we left).