

Grammar Extra

Unit 1 Position of adverbials. Aspect

Part 1: Position of adverbials

An adverbial can be a word (*sometimes, actually*) or a phrase (*in due course, on the TV*). Adverbials are generally used to provide additional information about a verb, an adjective or the sentence as a whole.

Adverbs of frequency are usually used between the auxiliary verb (when there is one) and the main verb: *We don't always make up after an argument.*

Adverbs which express possibility and probability are normally used between the auxiliary and the main verb in the affirmative: *We'll probably see you tomorrow.* But they are often positioned before the auxiliary in the negative: *We probably won't see you tomorrow.*

Adverbs of manner and indefinite time can also be used

between the auxiliary and main verbs. *We quickly finished our lunch. / We've finally met the deadline!*

Adverbs such as *apparently, presumably, frankly*, which comment on the sentence as a whole, usually go at the beginning of the sentence: *Frankly, I've had enough of the situation.* But they can also be used at the end: *I've had enough of the situation, frankly.*

Changes in position and meaning: most adverbials are very flexible and can be used in any of the three positions. However, sometimes a change in position can change the meaning of a sentence: *Jane only speaks German* (she doesn't speak any other languages) as opposed to *Only Jane speaks German* (no-one else speaks German).

► Now do Exercise 1.

Part 2: Aspect

The perfect aspect

Perfect verb forms are used to look back at an action, or series of actions that took place (or will take place) before a given point in time. *He hasn't spoken to her for three days.*

The continuous aspect

Continuous forms are used to describe an action, or series of actions, in progress at (or around) a given point in time. *She was attending an important meeting when I phoned so I couldn't*

speak to her.

Perfect continuous verb forms

The two aspects can be combined to form perfect continuous forms. Perfect continuous forms generally emphasise the length of time an action has been in progress, or the fact that it has only recently stopped. *He'd been waiting a long time and he was getting very frustrated. Was no-one going to help him?*

► Now do Exercise 2.

Unit 2 Noun phrases. Describing nouns and order of adjectives. Fronting

Part 1: Noun phrases. Describing nouns and order of adjectives

In addition to the noun, a noun phrase may contain a determiner and extra details describing the noun:

Determiner	Pre-modification	Head	Post-modification
articles possessive adjectives quantifiers, etc.	adjectives nouns compound nouns	main noun	prepositional phrases relative clauses reduced relative clauses
<i>a cup of the</i>	<i>black espresso Lebanese</i>	<i>coffee restaurant</i>	<i>with two or three sugars your cousin recommended</i>

When there are two or more adjectives before the noun they usually follow a certain pattern. Opinion adjectives always come before adjectives that describe facts. Other adjectives follow the order below.

size	other qualities	age	shape, pattern, colour	origin	material	type
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For example, *delicious fresh black Italian espresso coffee*

► Now do Exercise 1.

Part 2: Fronting

Fronting = to start a sentence with something other than the subject and the verb. Fronting is often used in journalism and literature for dramatic effect or emphasis:

Here comes John ...

Inversion: when you bring an object, complement or adverb to the beginning of the sentence you often reverse the order of the subject and the verb: *Damien was his name.*

Fronting questions: when you front a reported question there is no inversion: *What they were doing there, we did not know.* The fronted question follows the normal word order pattern for indirect questions, i.e. question word, subject, verb: *Why he had come, I could only guess.* Notice the use of the comma after the fronted question.

► Now do Exercise 2.

Unit 1 Exercises

1 Put the phrases in the correct order to form sentences. More than one order is possible. Choose the one you think sounds most natural.

- a) I / watch TV / always / before going to bed / for half an hour
- b) I / worked late / last week / every night / at the office
- c) I / love reading a good book / more than anything else / quite honestly
- d) I / won't do anything special / probably / tonight
- e) I / wish I had more time / at the weekend / sometimes / to do sport
- f) I / dislike loud music / particularly / in public places
- g) I'll / have time / to do more sport / probably / once I finish my exams
- h) I / know I / I'm / eat / in a hurry / always / too quickly / but

Are the sentences true for you? If not, change them so that they are. Then compare your sentences with a partner.

2 Complete the short conversations with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- a)
A: Where _____ (1 you/be)? I _____ (2 wait) here for hours!
B: Don't exaggerate! I bet you _____ (3 just/arrive). Jack said he spoke to you half an hour ago and that you _____ (4 just/get) off the bus!
- b)
A: How long _____ (5 you/live) in this flat? It _____ (6 must/be) a long time.
B: Yes, this time next week, we _____ (7 be) here for five years.
A: And when _____ (8 you/move) out?
B: At the end of the month. We _____ (9 move) into the new flat on the July 1st. We'll be sad to go.

Practise reading the exchanges with your partner.

Unit 2 Exercises

1 Write the sentences in the correct order.

- a) rust / bike / A / old / covered / in / battered
- b) great / soundtrack / thriller / An / with / a / action-packed
- c) a / man / story / no / home / with / about / A / moving
- d) high-heeled / wear / black / to / work / I / A / shoes / pair / of
- e) world / sandwich / bar / coffee / best / Italian / An / the / that / espresso / makes / in / the
- f) Asian / dishes / new / serving / a / restaurant / range / seafood / of / A / wide

Now write three complex noun phrases describing a) one of your favourite possessions, b) a book or film you've enjoyed, or c) a place where you've eaten recently.

Compare your sentences with your partner. Do you have similar tastes?

2 Rewrite the sentences starting with the words in bold.

- a) The curtains came **down** on her last act.

- b) Her long blonde locks had **gone**.

- c) There was a special light in her eyes.

- d) Her youthful beauty was **still** intact.

- e) Applause rang **loudly** through the theatre.

- f) There was **no-one** else on the stage with her as she took her last bow.

- g) No-one knew **what** would become of her now.

Look at the sentences again. They all come from the same text. What kind of text is it? What is the event being described in the text?