

Adverbs: frequency, manner, place and time

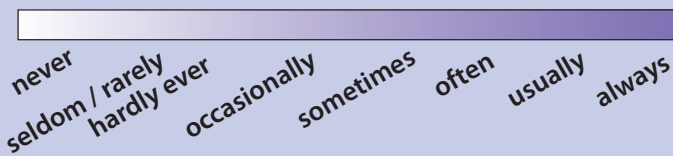
Oxford Grammar for Schools is a 5-level series that helps students understand and practise grammar, supporting and extending what they learn in their coursebooks. This lesson introduces or reviews adverbs for frequency, manner, place and time, and revises question words like *where*, *when* and *how often*.

Adverbs of frequency



Adverbs give extra information about adjectives, verbs and other adverbs. They say how often, when, where and how things happen.

We use adverbs of frequency to say how often something happens.



We use adverbs of frequency before a main verb.
Sally occasionally phones us.
We never play tennis.

However, we use adverbs of frequency after **be** and auxiliaries.

Jim's always busy.
I've often thought about you.
That doesn't usually happen.

We can use **sometimes** and **usually** at the beginning of sentences.

Sometimes we go shopping together.
Usually I'm on time.

We can also use expressions like **every (other) day**, **every Thursday** and **twice a month** to talk about frequency with the present simple. These expressions can go at the beginning or the end of a sentence.

She checks her emails three times a day.
On Mondays we go swimming.

To ask about frequency we use **How often ... ?**
'How often do you read?' 'Every day.'

In **yes/no** questions, we place the adverb of frequency before the verb.

Do you always use a green pen?
Does he often do that?
Do you ever read the newspaper? (ever = 'at any time')

* 1 23.1 Listen and choose the best option to complete the sentences.

- ▶ Julia c goes to the cinema on her own.
a sometimes b hardly ever c never
- 1 Henry ___ travels by train.
a often b occasionally c never
- 2 Tim ___ listens to music in bed at bedtime.
a always b usually c often
- 3 Vicky ___ goes running.
a always b usually c hardly ever
- 4 Isabel ___ writes letters.
a often b sometimes c never
- 5 James ___ watches the news on TV.
a often b sometimes c rarely

***2 Rewrite the sentences with the adverb of frequency in the correct place.**

- ▶ My grandparents went on holiday. (rarely)
My grandparents rarely went on holiday.
- 1 You should say 'thank you'. (always)
 - 2 I've been to hospital. (hardly ever)
 - 3 The shop was busy in those days. (seldom)
 - 4 Lock the door. (always)
 - 5 He's late. (occasionally)
 - 6 She forgets my name. (often)
 - 7 I'll forget you. (never)
 - 8 Don't say that again! (ever)

***3 Are the sentences correct ✓ or incorrect x? Rewrite the incorrect sentences.**

- ▶ He has a piano lesson every Thursday.
 ✓
- ▶ Does ever she drink tea?
 x *Does she ever drink tea?*
- 1 Milly never is ill.
 - 2 Sometimes we go for a walk after dinner.
 - 3 Twice a week she leaves the house at six o'clock.
 - 4 Leo washes his hair every other day.
 - 5 We've talked often about it.
 - 6 Always he doesn't walk to school.

***4 23.2 What do the people say? Listen and match responses a–i to questions 1–3.**

- 1 How often do you watch a film on TV?
a _____
 - 2 Have you ever fallen asleep on a bus or train?

 - 3 Do you always have breakfast?

- a Not often. About two or three times a year.
 b No, not always, but I usually do.
 c Yes, I've often done that.
 d No, I've never done that.
 e Yes, I do. Always.
 f Every day.
 g I've occasionally done it.
 h Sometimes, but not very often.
 i No, I hardly ever have breakfast.

***5 Work in small groups. Ask each other the questions in exercise 4.**

How often do you watch a film on TV, Toby?

About once a week. We often watch a film on TV on Friday evening.

***6 Write six questions with *How often ... ?* and *Do/Are you ever ... ?* Use the ideas in the box or your own ideas.**

eat lunch outside travel by plane go camping
 be late for school go to a big party
 read books or magazines about computers
 be hungry in the middle of the night

*Are you ever late for school?
 How often have you travelled by plane?*

***7 GAME Work in groups. Guess how the others in your group will answer your questions from exercise 6. Ask your questions. Did you guess correctly?**

*Are you ever sleepy after lunch?
 Tom – no, never
 Rosy – yes, sometimes
 Angie – yes, always*

Tom, are you ever sleepy after lunch?

Yes, I'm usually a bit sleepy after lunch.

Adverbs of manner, time and place



Manner

We use adverbs of manner after a verb to tell us how something happens. We usually place them at the end of a sentence or at the end of a clause.

*Ernie speaks **slowly**.*

*Suzy washed the vase **carefully** and put it away.*

When we comment on how something happened on one occasion, we can place the adverb of manner at the start of a sentence, or before the main verb. We often do this when we tell stories.

***Slowly**, he picked up his bags and left the house.*

*He **slowly** picked up his bags and left the house.*

Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding **-ly**, **-ily** or **-lly** to an adjective.

There are a few irregular adverbs of manner:

good → **well** *hard* → **hard** *fast* → **fast**

To talk about how people travel we often use adverbial expressions with **by**.

by car, by train, by plane (but **on foot**)

Time

We use adverbs of time to say when something happens: *now, then, early, late, today, tomorrow, yesterday, recently*.

We can also use adverbial time expressions: *last Wednesday, in 2006, two years ago, in the spring, at the moment*.

Adverbs of time and adverbial expressions can go at the beginning or the end of a sentence or clause.

*What's the matter **now**?*

***Now** what's the matter?*

*The leaves turn orange and brown **in the autumn**.*

***In the autumn**, the leaves turn orange and brown.*

But the adverbs of time **early**, **late** and **then** can only go at the end of a clause.

*We left the house **early** and came home **late**.*

Place

We use adverbs of place to say where something is or where something happens: *upstairs, downstairs, here, there, everywhere, away, abroad, indoors, outdoors, back, in, out*.

Adverbs of place usually go at the end of a sentence or clause.

*'Hello, it's Mandy **here**. Is John **there**?' 'No, I'm afraid he's still **at work**. I don't know when he'll be **back**.'*

We can also use adverbial place expressions: *in the garden, at home, in bed, at work*.

*Claire was **at college** while Katy was **on the beach**.*

When we use more than one adverb or adverbial expression after a verb they usually follow this sequence: manner, place, time.

verb	manner	place	time
My phone works	well	outdoors.	
We asked the man		at the police station	two days ago.
I couldn't think	clearly		yesterday.
You must work	hard	at school	tomorrow.

With verbs of movement (*run, walk, move, come, go*), the place is often closely linked with the verb. In this case we put the adverb of place directly after the verb. *She walked **away quietly**.*

***8 Write the adverbs in the correct place in the table.**

downstairs proudly never late well away
sometimes by bus seldom soon yesterday
quickly ever in prison tomorrow here
occasionally early happily everywhere

frequency	manner	place	time
	proudly		

***9 Complete the sentences. Use an adverb of manner formed from the adjective in brackets.**

- ▶ He's never spoken angrily to me. (angry)
- 1 She watched them _____. (sad)
- 2 You did that very _____. (good)
- 3 Ask _____, please. (polite)
- 4 He read the story _____. (beautiful)
- 5 I'm afraid I can't walk very _____. (fast)
- 6 He closed the door _____. (noisy)
- 7 Everyone has worked _____ today. (hard)
- 8 He smiled _____ at me. (cheerful)

***10 23.3 Complete the conversations with the adverbs from the box. Then listen and check.**

slowly downstairs terribly later
outdoors on foot out

- ▶ 'Did they work quickly?'
'No, they worked slowly.'
- 1 'Is Sam in?'
'No, he's _____.'
- 2 'Is Amy upstairs?'
'No, she's _____.'
- 3 'Can you help me now?'
'No, but I can help you _____.'
- 4 'Do you play chess well?'
'No, I play _____.'
- 5 'Shall we sit indoors?'
'No, let's sit _____.'
- 6 'Did you come here by car?'
'No, we came _____.'

***11 GAME** Work in pairs. Student A cover exercise 10. Student B read the first lines of conversations 1–3. How many responses can Student A remember? Swap roles for conversations 4–6.

Did they work quickly?

No, they worked slowly.

***12 Circle the correct answers.**

- ▶ Come here now / now here!
- 1 Ivy runs fast / fast runs.
- 2 Look, they're playing nicely now / now nicely.
- 3 They lived for ten years abroad / abroad for ten years.
- 4 She went away quietly at the end of the lesson. / at the end of the lesson quietly away.
- 5 Where's my book? It was here yesterday / yesterday here!
- 6 Toby's away at the moment / at the moment away. He's in Spain.
- 7 Wait for five minutes here / here for five minutes. I'll be back soon.
- 8 Did you go by plane there / there by plane?

***13 Write the sentences.**

- ▶ everywhere / yesterday / we looked
We looked everywhere yesterday.
- 1 quickly / run / home

- 2 now / out / I'm going

- 3 will you be / this evening / in
_____?
- 4 hard / she works / at the weekend

- 5 carefully / at bedtime / you must clean your teeth

- 6 quietly / let's talk / for five minutes / in the garden

*14 GAME

▶ **23.4** Complete the quiz questions with *Where, How, How often* or *When*. Then work in groups. Do the quiz, and listen to check the answers.



- ▶ How often does a solar eclipse happen?
- a Once every two weeks.
 - b Every two years.
 - c Once every twenty years.



- 1 _____'s the best place to be in a thunderstorm?
- a Outside.
 - b In a car.
 - c Indoors.

Quiz time

2 _____ does the moon circle the Earth?

- a About once a year.
- b About every 28 days.
- c About every 24 hours.

3 _____ should you breathe if you need to relax?

- a Slowly.
- b Noisily.
- c Quickly.

4 _____ would you find an 'attic'?

- a Upstairs.
- b Downstairs.
- c In the garden.

5 _____ did a French man fly from France to England for the first time in 1909?

- a By helicopter.
- b By plane.
- c By hot air balloon.



6 _____ does 'The Oscars' ceremony (the Academy Awards) take place?

- a Every two years.
- b Every autumn.
- c Every spring.

7 _____ was the first Olympic Games?

- a Many centuries ago.
- b In the last century.
- c Quite recently – about 30 years ago.

8 _____ should a musician play when the score says 'pianissimo'?

- a Very quietly.
- b Very loudly.
- c Very quickly.

*15



Write more quiz questions to ask each other. Team A, turn to page 182. Team B turn to page 183. Team C, turn to page 185. Follow the example below.

- ▶ 'Biennial' events happen
- a twice a year
 - b twice a month
 - c once every two years

Team A: How often do 'biennial' events happen? Is it a) twice a year, b) twice a month or c) once every two years?

Twice a year?

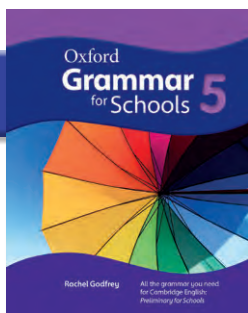
No. Team B?

Once every two years?

Yes, that's right.

Self-evaluation Rate your progress.

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Adverbs: frequency, manner, place and time Answer key

1 1 b 2 a 3 b 4 b 5 a

- 2 1 You should always say 'thank you'.
2 I've hardly ever been to hospital.
3 The shop was seldom busy in those days.
4 Always lock the door.
5 He's occasionally late
6 She often forgets my name.
7 I'll never forget you.
8 Don't ever say that again!

3 1 Milly is never ill.

- 2 ✓
3 ✓
4 ✓

5 We've often talked about it.
6 He doesn't always walk to school.

4 1 f, h 2 c, d, g 3 b, e, i

8

frequency	manner	place	time
never	proudly	downstairs	late
sometimes	well	away	soon
seldom	by bus	in prison	yesterday
ever	quickly	here	tomorrow
occasionally	happily	everywhere	early

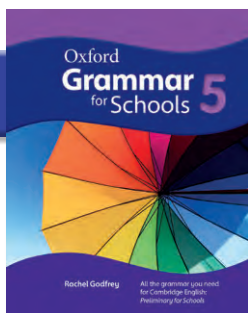
9 1 sadly 4 beautifully 7 hard
2 well 5 fast 8 cheerfully
3 politely 6 noisily

10 1 out 3 later 5 outdoors
2 downstairs 4 terribly 6 on foot

12 1 runs fast
2 nicely now
3 abroad for ten years
4 away quietly at the end of the lesson
5 here yesterday
6 away at the moment
7 here for five minutes
8 there by plane

13 1 Run home quickly.
2 I'm going out now.
3 Will you be in this evening?
4 She works hard at the weekend.
5 You must clean your teeth carefully at bedtime.
6 Let's talk quietly in the garden for five minutes.

14 1 Where 4 Where 7 When
2 How often 5 How 8 How
3 How 6 How often



Adverbs: frequency, manner, place and time Audioscript

▶ 23.1

- ▶ **A:** Do you ever go to the cinema on your own, Julia?
B: Me? No, no. I don't do that at all.

Conversation 1

- A:** How often do you travel by train, Henry?
B: Oh, I don't know – maybe once or twice a year. Not very often.

Conversation 2

- A:** Do you ever listen to music in bed, Tim?
B: Yes, I do that all the time – every night before I go to sleep.

Conversation 3

- A:** Do you go running every day, Vicky?
B: Not every day, no, but most days, yeah. I go a lot.

Conversation 4

- A:** Isabel, do you ever write a letter to someone, or do you only write emails?
B: Hmm... it's not something that I do a lot, but, yeah, from time to time I write a letter.

Conversation 5

- A:** James, how often do you watch the news on TV?
B: Quite a lot really – four or five times a week, maybe more.
A: Yeah, that is quite a lot. I hardly ever do.

▶ 23.2

Conversation 1

- A:** How often do you watch a film on TV?
B: Not often. About two or three times a year. I prefer going to the cinema.
A: How about you, Ed?
C: Every day! I love films and there's always something to watch on the film channel. And you, Daisy?
A: Sometimes, but not very often. I usually watch other things on TV, not films.

Conversation 2

- A:** Have you ever fallen asleep on a bus or a train?
B: Yes, I've often done that! Fortunately I always wake up before I have to get off! Have you?
A: No, I've never done that. What about you, Frank?
C: Yes, I've occasionally done it. But only on a train. I've never fallen asleep on a bus.

Conversation 3

- A:** Do you always have breakfast, Martin?
B: No, not always, but I usually do.
A: Do you, Carrie?
B: Yes, I do. Always. I get very hungry in the morning. And you?
A: No, I hardly ever have breakfast. I just don't feel like eating in the morning.

▶ 23.3

- ▶ **A:** Did they work quickly?
B: No, they worked slowly.
- 1 **A:** Is Sam in?
B: No, he's out.
- 2 **A:** Is Amy upstairs?
B: No, she's downstairs.
- 3 **A:** Can you help me now?
B: No, but I can help you later.
- 4 **A:** Do you play chess well?
B: No, I play terribly!
- 5 **A:** Shall we sit indoors?
B: No, let's sit outdoors.
- 6 **A:** Did you come here by car?
B: No, we came on foot.

▶ 23.4

- ▶ A solar eclipse happens every two years.
- 1 You should stay indoors in a thunderstorm. That's the best place to be.
- 2 The moon circles the Earth about once every 28 days.
- 3 Do you need to relax? You should breathe slowly.
- 4 An attic is a room under the roof, so you would find it upstairs.
- 5 Louis Blériot travelled across the English Channel by plane in 1909. He was the first person to do this.
- 6 'The Oscars' (the Academy Awards ceremony) takes place in the USA every spring.
- 7 The first Olympic games took place many years ago – more than two thousand years ago, in fact.
- 8 When the score says 'pianissimo', a musician should play very quietly.