

The Different Positions of the Adverbs of Time and Place in the English Sentences

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Abstract

This paper will discuss the different positions of adverbs of time and place in English sentences. Adverbs of time and place are words that modify the verb by indicating when or where the action took place. In English, these adverbs can be placed in different positions within a sentence, depending on the desired emphasis or clarity of the message.

The first part of this abstract will focus on adverbs of place, which can also be positioned at various points in a sentence to convey different meanings.

The second part of this abstract will examine adverbs of time, exploring their typical placement at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence. Examples will be provided to illustrate the different effects that placement can have on the meaning and emphasis of the sentence.

Keywords : Adverbs of Place, Adverbs of Time

1. Introduction

Of all the classes of English words, the adverb is the most difficult to describe. Like the adjective the adverb is a modifier, but whereas the adjective in either its attributive or its predicate function refers to a noun, the adverb normally refers to a verb. The word adverb literally means "to a verb" thus, the adverb is the sentence element used to qualify, determine a verb.

However, the adverb is a very powerful sentence element. Although the name "adverb" implies that they are only used with verbs, adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs:

- The heavenly blue light shone on the water.

The adverb "heavenly" modifies the adjective "blue" .When an adverb modifies an adjective, there is no need to join the two with a hyphen.

However, with words like "well" and "fast". (which are both adjectives and adverbs) A hyphen is used to avoid ambiguity:

-We will be visited by a well-known actress

(In this example, a hyphen is added to differentiate between "well-known actress").

II. The Aim of the study

The aim of this paper is to investigate the grammatical aspects of adverbs especially adverbs of place and time within English.

III. The method

The present work is a theoretical study. It refers to the most important books in grammar in order to view both the adverbs of place and time in English.

1. Adverb of Place

Adverbs of place: They tell us where an incident happens or take place, in other words, adverbs of place tell us where the action was carried out. To identify them can ask a question starting with "where"

Example

- *They told us the news here.*

The adverbs are usually placed after the main verb or after the object. (Conlin, 1961:82)

1.1 Position

(away, everywhere, here, nowhere, somewhere, there etc.)

A-If there is no object, these adverbs are usually placed after the verb.

Examples

- *She went away.*

- *He lives abroad.*

- *Bill is upstairs.*

Adverb phrases, formed of preposition + noun / adverb, follow the above position rules.

Examples

- *The parrot sat on a perch.*

- *He Stood in the door way.* -

- *He lives near me.*

B- Somewhere, anywhere: follow the same basic rules as some and any:

Examples

- *I've see that man somewhere.*

- *Can you see my key where? No, I can't see it anywhere.*

- *Are you going somewhere?*

C- Here, there: can be followed by be / come / go + noun subject

Examples

- *Here's Tom.*

- *There's Ann*

- *Here comes the train.*

- *There goes our bus..*

Here and there used as above carry more stress than here there placed after the verb.

There is also usually a difference in meaning. Tom is here he is in this room/building / town etc. but here's Tom implies that he has just appeared or that we have just round him.

D- Someone phoning a friend may introduce himself/herself by name there:

Ann (on phone): is that you Tom? Ann here or this is Ann . She must not say Ann in here or Here is Ann.

E- The adverbs away (off), down, in, off, out, over, round, up etc.

Examples **Away went the runners**

- *Down felt a dozen of apples.*

-*Out sprang the cuckoo*

- *Round and round flew the plane.*

F- In written English adverb phrases introduced by prepositions (down, from, in, an over, out, /of, round, up, etc) can be followed by verbs indicating position (crouch, hang, lie, sit, stand etc.) By verbs of motion, by be born, die, live and sometimes other verb:

Examples

• *From the rafters hung strings of onion*

• *In the doorway stood a man with a gun.*

Example: Hanging from the rafters were strings of onions

Standing in the doorway was a man with a gun. But a participle could not be used with the last example Unless the shower of stones lasted for some time. (Martinet 1960: 54-5)

1.2 Adverbial clauses and phrases

Quite often, an "adverb" in a sentence comprises server words. These types of adverbs are called: Adverbial clauses and phases

Adverbial clauses of place are introduced by where or wherever

Examples

• *They went wherever they could find work.*

• *Where the fire had been, we saw nothing but blackened ruins.*

Non-finite and verb less clauses occur with both the subordinators. (Quirk et al (1973: 363)

2. Adverbs of Time

Adverbs of time usually tell us when something happen they include: afterwards, later, now, soon, yesterdays

Adverbs of time include:

a. Today.

- *I've been to shops today*

b. yesterday.

- I went yesterday

c. Next week/month/year

- I am going *next week*.

d. Last week/month/year

- I went *last year*.

e. Finally

- I *finally* went

f. Eventually

- I *eventually* went to the shops.

g. Already

- I've *already* been to the shops

h. soon.

- I'm going to the shops *soon*.

(Conlin, 1961: 83).

2.1 Position

A- Afterwards, eventually, lately, now, recently, soon, then, today, tomorrow etc.

An adverb phrases of time: at once, since, then, till.

These are usually placed at the very beginning or at the very end of the clause, i.e. in front position or end position.

Example

We'll soon be there.

B-before, early, immediately and late, come at the end of the clause:

Examples

- He came late.

- I'll go immediately

But before and immediately, used as conjunction, are placed at the beginning of the clause :

Example

Immediately the rain stops we'll set out.

C- Since and ever since are used with perfect tenses since, can com after the auxiliary or in end position after a negative or interrogative verb, ever since (adverb) in end position. Though front position is possible:

Examples

He's been in bed since, his accident / since he broke his leg.

D- yet and still (adverb of time)

-Yet is normally placed after verb or after verb + object :

Example:

He hasn't finished (his breakfast) yet.

-Still is placed after the verb be but before other verbs

Example:

- *She is still in bed*

Yet means 'up to the time of speaking'. It's chiefly used with the negative or interrogative.

Still emphasizes that the action continues. It is chiefly used with the affirmative or interrogative. But can be used with the negative to emphasize the continuance of a negative action;

2.2 Adverbial clause of time

Finite adverbial clause of time are introduced by such subordinators as after, before, since, until, when:

Examples: When I last saw you, you lived in Washington.

- *Buy your tickets as soon as you reach the station.*
- *Our hostess, once everyone had arrived, was full of good humor.*

Conclusion

Adverbs of place and time, beside the other types of adverbs, are regarded as one of the most important element in the grammar of English.

As their names indicate adverbs of place and time tell the reader/listener where and when an action took place. In other words, when we write / speak sometimes it is important for us and even for our addressee to mention the place and time in which something happened in order to make our message clearly understood.

Concerning the position, each type has a specific position in the sentence according to the meaning carried by that sentence. That is, the position of adverbs in general, and those of place and time in particular ; may, to some extent, be affected by the meaning intended in the sentence.

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