

Advanced Reading / Second Stage

Chapter six : Adverbs and Intensifiers

- **Adverbs** are a major part of speech that we use to modify verbs, adjectives, clauses, and even other adverbs. Adverbs are words that answer the questions when, where, and how, for example, *recently, never, below, slowly, frankly*. Typically, adverbs end in *-ly* though there are a few adjectives that take this ending too, such as *lovely, friendly, lonely*.
- If you've studied grammar, you probably know that words like *calmly, everywhere, and soon* are examples of adverbs. But did you know that there are different types of adverbs? It's true, there are six common types of adverbs that we use all of the time, including: Adverbs of time, adverbs of place, adverbs of manner, adverbs of degree (intensifier).....

In this chapter the emphasis is on adverbs of manner and adverbs of degree or so-called "intensifiers"

❖ **Adverb of manner:**

- An **adverb of manner** describes how an action is performed or how something happens. In most cases, adverbs of manner occur after the main verb.
- Very often adverbs of manner are adj with *-ly* added to the end, but this is not always the case. In fact, some adverb of manner will have the same spelling as the adj form. For example:

Jessie read **quietly**.

Tom laughed **loudly**.

- If the verb has a direct object (a thing being acted upon), the adverb should be placed before the verb or at the end of the sentence. It should never be placed between the verb and its object (in the following examples, "the book" is the object).
 - **Jessie read quietly the book.** (This is incorrect sentence)
 - **Jessie quietly read the book.** (True Sentence)
 - **Jessie read the book quietly.** (True Sentence)

- **Common adverbs of manner include:**

accurately, badly, carefully, patiently, straight, well.....

❖ **Intensifiers (adverbs of degree)**

- **Intensifiers** are used to qualify verbs, adjectives, or adverbs by expressing extent or degree. These adverbs used to make adjectives, other adverbs and verbs stronger or weaker. Some common adverbs of degree include: “extremely,” “absolutely,” “slightly,” “quite,” and “enough.” For example:

Dave to listen *empathetically*, communicate *openly*, and describe behavior *nonjudgmentally*.

The medication had a **very** positive effect.

I'll be ready soon; I'm **almost** finished.

- We can use these adverbs before gradable adjectives (i.e. adjectives that can be used in the comparative) and adverbs: Very, extremely, really, just, completely, totally, particularly, terribly (emphatic) quite, pretty, fairly, rather (weaker than very) a bit. For example:

I felt **terribly** upset when I heard the news.

He drives **rather** fast

I **completely** /**totally** forgot about your birthday.

It's **completely** impossible to finish in time

You look **just** fantastic.

I'm **really** discouraged. (How discouraged are you?)

He was speaking **too** quickly for me to understand. (How quickly ... ?)

- Other words used as intensifiers include: very, quite, totally, pretty, seriously, absolutely, partly, somewhat, moderately, extremely, completely.

Let's practice

Read the conversation below and underline the intensifiers.

Joe (employee): Jane, I'm totally discouraged about the way things have been going on the job. It never goes the way I expect it to. And it seems like you're almost never around anymore.

Jane (supervisor): That's completely ridiculous! You're imagining things. I'm the first to get here in the morning and the very last to leave at night. Who told you that you have the right to criticize the boss? If you're not extremely careful, you could get fired.