

Grammar - Adverbs of Manner – How Actions Happen

Adverbs of manner describe *how* something is done. They often end in **-ly** and make sentences more descriptive. These adverbs are common in both writing and speech. Below are some key grammar points about how adverbs of manner work in English.

Point 1: Most adverbs of manner are adjectives with -ly endings

To form an adverb of manner, you usually take an adjective and add **-ly**.

1. loud → **loudly**
2. angry → **angrily**
3. quick → **quickly**
4. confident → **confidently**

Point 2: They can go directly after the main verb

This is the most common position. The adverb comes right after the verb.

1. They talked **loudly** during the whole movie.
2. I answered most questions quite **easily**.
3. I just sat there **quietly**.

Point 3: They can go after the object of the verb

Sometimes the adverb comes after both the verb and its object.

1. I kept looking at them **angrily**.
2. I learned new words **quickly**.

Point 4: They can go before the main verb or after the auxiliary or modal verb.

When a sentence uses an auxiliary verb (like *have*, *will*, *can*, or *be*), the adverb can go between the auxiliary and the main verb.

1. I was able to **confidently** answer the last question.
2. He has **easily** passed all of his exams.
3. I might **quickly** review it later.

Point 5: They can sometimes go before the subject (for emphasis)

This word order is less common and usually used in writing or formal speech to add emphasis.

1. **Quickly**, she brought all the children inside.
2. **Quietly**, the student snuck out of class.
3. **Angrily**, she told me to stop talking.

Point 6: They usually cannot go between the verb and its object

Adverbs of manner almost never go between a verb and its direct object. This word order is incorrect in most cases.

1. ✗ I learned **quickly** new words. → *Not correct*
2. ✓ I learned new words **quickly**. → *Correct*
3. ✗ She answered **confidently** the questions. → *Not correct*
4. ✓ She answered the questions **confidently**. → *Correct*

Adverbs of Manner

Watch video using **adverbs of manner** in four conversations.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: How was the movie?

Woman: Terrible. There were some rude people sitting right behind us.

Man: Really? How were they rude?

Woman: Well, they talked **loudly** during the whole movie.

Man: Oh, that is terrible. I hate that.

Woman: Yeah, I kept looking at them **angrily**, but they didn't seem to notice.

Man: I'm sorry to hear that. I would have said something.

Woman: Yeah, I should have.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: How was your English test?

Woman: It went pretty **smoothly**. I answered most questions quite **easily**.

Man: That's great. Sounds like you aced it.

Woman: Well, I wouldn't go that far.

Man: Why not? You said you it was easy.

Woman: Well, I felt **confidently** about my last test, and I got a C.

Man: Well, I'm sure things will turn out **differently** this time.

Woman: Let's hope so!

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: What are you doing?

Woman: I'm using this app to learn French.

Man: Oh, cool. Is it working?

Woman: Yeah, I'm learning a lot of words **quickly**.

Man: Does the app teach grammar?

Woman: No, it mostly only teaches vocabulary.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: How did your job interview go?

Woman: Not well. It didn't go *smoothly*.

Man: Why? What happened?

Woman: Well, when they asked me questions, I couldn't think of anything to say.

Man: Oh, no. What did you do?

Woman: Nothing! I just sat there *quietly*!

Man: Don't worry about it. I'm sure that happens all the time.

Woman: Yeah, maybe it was not meant to be.

Man: Maybe not, but you never know.

Quiz

Answer these questions about the interview.

1) What bothered the woman at the movie?

- a) People talking loudly**
- b) A boy kicking her seat
- c) A person blocking her view

2) What happened on the previous test?

- a) She aced it.
- b) She failed it.
- c) She passed it.**

3) What does the app teach?

- a) Grammar
- b) Vocabulary**
- c) Pronunciation

4) What did the woman do?

- a) Act silly
- b) Sit quietly**
- c) Talk loudly

Interviews for Recruiters and Candidates

9. What three words would your most recent teammates use to describe you?

Tips: Even when a role is relatively independent, you'll still need to interact and collaborate with others. Hiring managers are looking to discover **how well you work within the boundaries of a team**. Consider the traits and skills you've been praised for and feedback you've received during performance reviews.

Example Answer:

My current teammates would describe me as reliable, adaptable, and proactive. I understand that meeting my personal goals can't get me very far without us succeeding as a team. Because of that, my teammates' feedback is consistently that I am an excellent team player who takes initiative and is open to feedback.

10. Describe your ideal company culture.

Tips: Employee turnover often stems from a poor cultural fit. Even if the organization doesn't have [a toxic culture](#), ensuring applicants mesh with the team and thrive personally helps lower that number substantially. Not only that, but if they have an excellent reputation and a unique culture, they will be rigorous in defending it. Do your research and **be specific in explaining why you'll enhance the company culture**.

Example Answer:

In my experience, I've thrived at companies that balance team goals with opportunities for personal development. I'm excited about working in a smaller team with a diverse group. I believe encouraging employees to bring their unique perspectives and share ideas will lead to creative solutions. I also look forward to learning from teammates with different backgrounds, experiences, and skill sets. Ultimately, my ideal company culture values collaboration, creativity, and learning from diverse perspectives.

11. What would you do in your first 90 days in this role?

Tips: Will you be able to hit the ground running? **Hiring managers want to know that you can strategize and plan**. When discussing goals, focus on topics such as

integrating yourself with the team, developing relationships with other departments, and learning more about the role. Keep it specific by describing projects or tasks you think you'll prioritize within those 90 days.

Example Answer:

In my first 90 days in this role, I will focus on learning more about the team and our unique contribution to the industry. I plan to meet with key stakeholders, review current projects, understand our process flow, and build relationships with other departments. Additionally, I think it's essential to gain a thorough understanding of our product offering so that I can support our customers and ensure we meet their needs. As part of this, I'd like to review customer feedback and develop a plan to ensure I'm consistently exceeding their expectations.

12. Give an example of when you received negative feedback and how you responded.

Tips: Hiring managers are seeking to understand whether or not you have a growth mindset. Negative feedback is inevitable, and leaders are looking for those who understand that criticism isn't personal. Instead, you want to **communicate that you'll use feedback to improve your skills**. Use [the STAR method](#) to describe a situation, the feedback you received, and how you applied it to achieve a better outcome.

Example Answer:

Recently, I was given negative feedback about a large project I completed as a virtual assistant. My supervisor noted that the formatting of my presentation needed to be in line with company standards and clarified for the audience. I took this feedback and spent several days revising the presentation by making sure all elements were cohesive and easy to understand.

I also contacted my supervisor to ensure that we updated the style guide to clarify their standards moving forward. In the end, they were happy with the project and appreciated that I took the initiative to improve the document for everyone on the team.