

ADVERBS — Comprehensive Exam Notes (NDA / CDS / AFCAT)

1. What is an Adverb?

An **adverb** is a word that modifies or adds more information about:

- A **Verb** (*She runs fast.*)
- An **Adjective** (*He is extremely intelligent.*)
- Another **Adverb** (*She speaks very fluently.*)

2. Types of Adverbs

- **Adverb of Manner:** Expresses *how* an action happens (*slowly, bravely, beautifully, gracefully*).
- **Adverb of Place:** Expresses *where* an action happens (*here, there, everywhere, inside, home*).
- **Adverb of Time:** Expresses *when* an action happens (*today, late, lately, yesterday, now*).
- **Adverb of Frequency:** Expresses *how often* an action happens (*always, seldom, never, rarely, hard*).
- **Adverb of Degree:** Expresses *to what extent or intensity* (*very, too, much, fairly, rather, enough*).

3. Top High-Yield Rules for Defense Exams

Rule 1: The MPT Rule (Sequence of Adverbs)

When multiple adverbs follow a main verb, place them in the strict order: **Manner, Place, Time**.

- **Incorrect:** *She sang in the hall beautifully yesterday.*
- **Correct:** *She sang **beautifully** (Manner) **in the hall** (Place) **yesterday** (Time).*

Exception: For verbs of movement (*come, go, arrive*), the order becomes **Place, Manner and Time**.

- **Correct:** *He went **home** (Place) **quickly** (Manner).*

Rule 2: Usage of Too Much VS. Much Too

- **Too Much** is followed by a **Noun** (*Too much pain / Too much work*).
- **Much Too** is followed by an **Adjective** (*Much too painful / Much too difficult*).
 - **Incorrect:** *The news was too much painful for her.*
 - **Correct:** *The news was **much too** painful for her.*

Rule 3: The Positioning of Enough

Enough acts as an adverb modifying adjectives and must always be placed **AFTER** the adjective in its **Positive Degree**.

- **Incorrect:** *He is enough kind to help everyone.*
- **Correct:** *He is **kind enough** to help everyone.*
- **Incorrect:** *Are you bravest enough to take action?*
- **Correct:** *Are you **brave enough** to take action?*

Rule 4: Late VS. Lately

- **Late:** Denotes time / delay (*arrived late*).
- **Lately:** Means *recently* (used with Present Perfect Tense, usually in negative or interrogative clauses).
 - **Incorrect:** *The flight arrived so lately that I missed it.*
 - **Correct:** *The flight arrived so **late** that I missed it.*
 - **Correct:** *I have not met him **lately**.*

Rule 5: Fairly VS. Rather

- **Fairly** is used with **Pleasant Adjectives** and takes the Positive Degree (*fairly hot tea, fairly good performance*).
- **Rather** is used with **Unpleasant Adjectives** (*rather difficult, rather ugly, rather unsatisfied*).
 - **Incorrect:** *The exam was fairly difficult for most students.*
 - **Correct:** *The exam was **rather** difficult for most students.*

Rule 6: Verbs That Reject As

Do NOT use the adverb **as** after the verbs: **Appoint, Consider, Elect, Call, Name, Choose**.

- **Incorrect:** *The committee decided to appoint him as the chairman.*
- **Correct:** *The committee decided to **appoint him the chairman**.*
- **Incorrect:** *I have always considered him as my best friend.*
- **Correct:** *I have always **considered him my best friend**.*

Rule 7: Hard VS. Hardly

- **Hard:** Means *with great effort/force* (*work hard*).
- **Hardly:** Means *barely / scarcely* (negative sense).
 - **Incorrect:** *He worked hardly for his NDA exams.*
 - **Correct:** *He worked **hard** for his NDA exams.*

4. Master Rule: Inversion in Adverbs

When a sentence starts with negative or restrictive adverbs, the auxiliary verb comes **BEFORE** the subject (**Inversion: Auxiliary Verb + Subject + Main Verb**).

Trigger Words: Seldom, Never, Hardly, Scarcely, Barely, No sooner, Neither, Nor, Not only, Under no circumstances, Only by.

1. **No sooner:**

- **Incorrect:** *No sooner the employees completed the task than the manager presented incentives.*
- **Correct:** *No sooner **did the employees complete** the task than the manager presented incentives.*

2. **Neither / Nor:**

- **Incorrect:** *He was neither interested, nor he wanted to spend money.*
- **Correct:** *He was neither interested, nor **did he want** to spend money.*

3. **Not only:**

- **Incorrect:** *Not only he ignored the warnings, but he also mocked the elders.*
- **Correct:** *Not only **did he ignore** the warnings, but he also mocked the elders.*

4. **Under no circumstances:**

- **Incorrect:** *Under no circumstances we can help you.*
- **Correct:** *Under no circumstances **can we help** you.*

5. Defense Exam MCQs (Practice Set)

Q1. Identify the erroneous part:

The manager (A) / decided to (B) / appoint him (C) / as the chairman. (D) / No error (E)

- **Answer: (D)**
- **Explanation:** Omit *as* after the verb *appoint*.

Q2. Identify the erroneous part:

The news (A) / was (B) / too much (C) / painful for her. (D) / No error (E)

- **Answer: (C)**
- **Explanation:** Use *much too* before the adjective *painful*.

Q3. Identify the erroneous part:

No sooner the employees (A) / completed the task (B) / than the manager (C) / presented them incentives. (D) / No error (E)

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Explanation:** Apply inversion after *No sooner*: "*No sooner did the employees complete...*"

Q4. Choose the correct improvement:

Only by working hard, he gets success.

- (a) he got success
- (b) does he get success
- (c) do he get success
- (d) No improvement

- **Answer: (b)**
- **Explanation:** Sentences starting with "*Only + adverbial expression*" take inversion (*does he get*).

THE 15 GOLDEN RULES OF ADVERBS

1. Sequence of Adverbs: The MPT Rule

When a sentence contains multiple adverbs modifying the same verb, place them in the order: **Manner $\rightarrow$ Place $\rightarrow$ Time**.

- *Incorrect:* She sang in the hall beautifully yesterday.
- *Correct:* She sang **beautifully** (*Manner*) **in the hall** (*Place*) **yesterday** (*Time*).
- **Exception:** Verbs of movement (*go, come, arrive*) take **Place $\rightarrow$ Manner $\rightarrow$ Time**.
 - *Correct:* He went **home** (*Place*) **quickly** (*Manner*) **yesterday** (*Time*).

2. Master Inversion Rule

When a sentence begins with negative or restrictive adverbs (*Never, Seldom, Hardly, Scarcely, Barely, Rarely, No sooner, Under no circumstances*), invert the auxiliary verb and the subject (Adverb + Auxiliary Verb + Subject + Main Verb).

- *Incorrect:* No sooner the train arrived than the passengers rushed in.
- *Correct:* **No sooner did the train arrive than** the passengers rushed in.
- *Incorrect:* Under no circumstances we can accept security breaches.
- *Correct:* **Under no circumstances can we accept** security breaches.

3. Positioning of Enough

Enough modifies adjectives/adverbs and must always be placed **AFTER** the positive degree of the word it modifies.

- *Incorrect:* He is enough kind to help the homeless man.
- *Correct:* He is **kind enough** to help the homeless man.
- *Incorrect:* Are you bravest enough to take action?
- *Correct:* Are you **brave enough** to take action?

4. Too Much VS. Much Too

- **Too Much** is followed by a **Noun**.
- **Much Too** is followed by an **Unpleasant Adjective**.
- *Incorrect:* The paper was too much difficult for beginners.
- *Correct:* The paper was **much too difficult** for beginners.
- *Incorrect:* He has much too work to complete.
- *Correct:* He has **too much work** to complete.

5. Late **VS.** Lately

- **Late** denotes time delay or after schedule.
- **Lately** means *recently* (used with Present Perfect Tense, usually in negative or interrogative clauses).
- *Incorrect:* The flight arrived so lately that I missed my connection.
- *Correct:* The flight arrived so **late** that I missed my connection.
- *Incorrect:* I haven't seen any good documentaries late.
- *Correct:* I haven't seen any good documentaries **lately**.

6. Hard **VS.** Hardly

- **Hard** means *with great effort or force* (positive sense).
- **Hardly** means *scarcely or barely* (negative sense).
- *Incorrect:* He worked hardly to clear the NDA examination.
- *Correct:* He worked **hard** to clear the NDA examination.
- *Incorrect:* There was hard any water left in the jug.
- *Correct:* There was **hardly** any water left in the jug.

7. Fairly **VS.** Rather

- **Fairly** is used with **Pleasant / Positive Adjectives**.
- **Rather** is used with **Unpleasant / Negative Adjectives**.
- *Incorrect:* The weather is fairly awful today.
- *Correct:* The weather is **rather** awful today.
- *Incorrect:* The exam was fairly difficult for students.
- *Correct:* The exam was **rather** difficult for students.

8. Very **VS.** Much

- **Very** modifies **Positive Degree** adjectives or **Present Participles** (\$V_1 + \text{ing}\$).
- **Much** modifies **Comparative Degree** adjectives or **Past Participles** (\$V_3\$).
- *Incorrect:* She is much smart for her age.
- *Correct:* She is **very** smart for her age.
- *Incorrect:* He is very stronger than his opponent.
- *Correct:* He is **much** stronger than his opponent.

9. Omission of **As** with Select Verbs

Do **not** use the adverb as after verbs like: **Appoint, Elect, Consider, Call, Name, Choose, Make**.

- *Incorrect:* The board decided to appoint him as the CEO.
- *Correct:* The board decided to **appoint him the CEO**.
- *Incorrect:* I have always considered him as my guide.
- *Correct:* I have always **considered him my guide**.

10. Verbs of Perception Take Adjectives

Verbs of sensation/perception (*look, taste, smell, sound, feel*) take an **Adjective**, not an Adverb, when describing the state of the subject.

- *Incorrect:* The food smells deliciously.
- *Correct:* The food smells **delicious**.
- *Incorrect:* She feels badly about the accident.
- *Correct:* She feels **bad** about the accident.

11. Prohibition of Double Negatives

Never combine negative adverbs (*hardly, scarcely, barely, seldom, neither*) with other negative words (*not, no, never, without*).

- *Incorrect:* I could not hardly find any fault in his argument.
- *Correct:* I could **hardly** find any fault in his argument.
- *Incorrect:* He does not seldom visit his hometown.
- *Correct:* He **seldom** visits his hometown.

12. Placement of **only**

Place the adverb **only** **immediately before** the specific word or phrase it is intended to modify.

- *Incorrect:* She only died yesterday. (*Implies dying was her only action*)
- *Correct:* She died **only yesterday**. (*Modifies the time*)
- *Incorrect:* He only solved two questions in the exam.
- *Correct:* He solved **only two questions** in the exam. (*Modifies quantity*)

13. Adjectives vs. Adverbs Ending in **-ly**

Words like *friendly, cowardly, miserly, gentlemanly, scholarly* are **Adjectives**, not Adverbs. To use them as adverbs, use the pattern: In a + Adjective + manner/way.

- *Incorrect:* He fought cowardly in the battlefield.
- *Correct:* He fought **in a cowardly manner**.
- *Incorrect:* He behaved miserly with his colleagues.
- *Correct:* He behaved **in a miserly way**.

14. Seldom or Never **VS.** Seldom if Ever

Use either Seldom or never or Seldom if ever. The combination "*Seldom or ever*" is grammatically incorrect.

- *Incorrect:* He seldom or ever attends the practice sessions.
- *Correct:* He **seldom or never** attends the practice sessions.
- *Incorrect:* She seldom if never calls her parents.
- *Correct:* She **seldom if ever** calls her parents.

15. Ago Requires Simple Past Tense

The adverb ago is strictly used with the **Simple Past Tense** (\$V_2\$), never with the Present Perfect Tense.

- *Incorrect:* He has passed the examination two years ago.
- *Correct:* He **passed** the examination two years ago.
- *Incorrect:* They have submitted the project a week ago.
- *Correct:* They **submitted** the project a week ago.