

SMART PANEL NOTES: ADVERBS

Target Exams: Indian Airforce (Group X & Y) | Maharashtra Forest Guard

Module Focus: Error Spotting, Confusing Pairs, and Sentence Structure

PANEL 1: Adverb Essentials

An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It answers questions like *How*, *When*, *Where*, and *How often*.

Type	What it shows	Exam Examples
Manner	How an action is done.	Bravely, fast, hard, beautifully
Time	When an action is done.	Today, late, early, now, soon
Place	Where an action is done.	Here, there, outside, everywhere
Frequency	How often an action is done.	Always, never, seldom, often

PANEL 2: The "LY" Trap (High Yield)

We often think all words ending in **-ly** are adverbs. **This is false.** Nouns ending in *-ly* become Adjectives. Adjectives ending in *-ly* become Adverbs.

Key Words that are ADJECTIVES, not Adverbs: Cowardly, Miserly, Friendly, Niggardly, Manly.

- ✗ **Incorrect:** He fought *cowardly*. (Cowardly is an adjective, you need an adverb).
- ✓ **Correct:** He fought **in a cowardly manner**.
- ✗ **Incorrect:** He behaved *friendly*.
- ✓ **Correct:** He behaved **in a friendly manner**.

PANEL 3: Confusing Adverb Pairs (Very Common PYQ)

A. Hard vs. Hardly

- **Hard:** With effort/solid. (*He works hard.*)
- **Hardly:** Almost not at all / Scarcely. (*He hardly works.* = He doesn't do much work.)
-  **Incorrect:** He tried *hardly* to win the race.
-  **Correct:** He tried **hard** to win the race.

B. Late vs. Lately

- **Late:** After the expected time. (*He came late.*)
- **Lately:** Recently. (*Have you seen him lately?*)
-  **Incorrect:** I have not received any letter from him *late*.
-  **Correct:** I have not received any letter from him **lately**.

C. Free vs. Freely

- **Free:** Without cost. (*You can travel free.*)
- **Freely:** Without restriction. (*You can speak freely here.*)

PANEL 4: The Rule of "Enough"

The position of the word *enough* is heavily tested in Airforce exams.

- **Rule 1:** It comes **AFTER** an Adjective or Adverb.
- **Rule 2:** It comes **BEFORE** a Noun.
-  **Incorrect:** He is *enough smart* to solve this.
-  **Correct:** He is **smart enough** to solve this. (Smart = Adjective)
-  **Correct:** I have **enough money** to buy a car. (Money = Noun)

PANEL 5: The Rule of Inversion (Crucial)

When a sentence starts with a negative adverb (Hardly, Scarcely, Seldom, Never, No sooner), the **Helping Verb MUST come before the Subject**.

-  **Incorrect:** Hardly *I had* reached the station when the train left.
-  **Correct:** Hardly **had I** reached the station when the train left.
-  **Incorrect:** No sooner *the teacher entered* the class than the students stood up.
-  **Correct:** No sooner **did the teacher enter** the class than the students stood up.

Smart Tip: Pairs to remember:

Hardly / Scarcely... takes **WHEN**.

No sooner... takes **THAN**.

PANEL 6: Very vs. Too / Much vs. Very

A. Very vs. Too

Very is used in a positive sense. *Too* means "more than required" and is usually negative.

-  **Incorrect:** I am *too* happy to meet you.
-  **Correct:** I am **very** happy to meet you.
-  **Correct:** It is **too** hot to go outside. (Negative meaning)

B. Very vs. Much

Very is used with Positive Degree adjectives. *Much* is used with Comparative Degree adjectives.

-  **Incorrect:** He is *much* good at sports.
-  **Correct:** He is **very** good at sports.
-  **Correct:** He is **much** better today.