



NDA/NA ENGLISH MASTERY SERIES

MODULE 05

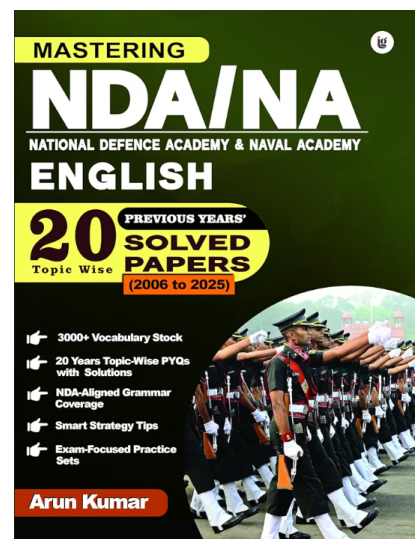
Adverb

Adverb types, position and usage with rule-based practice.

From the book

MASTERING NDA/NA ENGLISH

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➤ Definition of Adverb

An adverb is a word or phrase that modifies or qualifies a verb, adjective, another adverb, or a complete sentence. It provides additional details about the manner, place, time, frequency, degree, or reason of an action or state. For example:

- She runs quickly. (Modifies the verb "runs" by describing how she runs)
- The exam was extremely challenging. (Modifies the adjective "challenging" by indicating the degree)
- He speaks very confidently. (Modifies the adverb "confidently" by showing extent)
- Fortunately, the team won the match. (Modifies the entire sentence)

Adverbs are versatile and help make sentences more precise and informative, which is crucial for clear communication in both written and spoken English.

➤ Functions of Adverbs

Adverbs serve several grammatical roles:

- Modify verbs: She quietly closed the door.
- Modify adjectives: That was incredibly difficult.
- Modify other adverbs: He drives too fast.
- Modify entire sentences: Honestly, I don't care

➤ Types of Adverbs

Adverbs can be classified into several types based on the kind of information they provide. Below, we discuss the major categories, including Simple, Relative, and Interrogative adverbs, as relevant to the exam.

1. Simple Adverbs

Simple adverbs are the most common type and describe how, when, where, to what extent, or how often an action occurs. They are further subdivided based on their function:

- **Adverbs of Manner:** These describe *how* an action is performed.
Example: The soldier marched confidently. ("Confidently" describes the manner of marching)
Other examples: slowly, carefully, loudly, gracefully.
- **Adverbs of Time:** These indicate *when* an action takes place.
Example: The exam will start tomorrow. ("Tomorrow" specifies the time)
Other examples: today, now, later, yesterday
- **Adverbs of Place:** These tell *where* an action occurs.
Example: The team trained nearby. ("Nearby" indicates the place)
Other examples: here, there, everywhere, outside

- **Adverbs of Frequency:** These show *how often* an action happens.

Example: She always prepares thoroughly. ("Always" indicates frequency)

Other examples: often, sometimes, rarely, never

- **Adverbs of Degree:** These express *to what extent* or the intensity of an action or quality.

Example: The task was almost impossible. ("Almost" shows the degree)

Other examples: very, too, quite, enough

- **Adverbs of Reason:** These explain *why* an action occurs.

Example: He missed the exam, hence he was disqualified. ("Hence" explains the reason)

Other examples: therefore, thus, consequently

2. Relative Adverbs

Relative adverbs introduce a relative clause and connect it to the main clause, providing information about time, place, or reason. They are commonly used in complex sentences. The primary relative adverbs are *When*, *Where*, and *Why*.

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- **When:** Refers to the time of an action.

Example: The day when the results were announced was chaotic. ("When" connects the clause to "day")

- **Where:** Indicates the place of an action.

Example: This is the academy where cadets train rigorously. ("Where" connects the clause to "academy")

- **Why:** Explains the reason for an action.

Example: The reason why he joined the NDA was his patriotism. ("Why" connects the clause to "reason")

3. Interrogative Adverbs

Interrogative adverbs are used to ask questions about manner, place, time, reason, or degree. The main interrogative adverbs are how, when, where, why, and how much/how many.

How: Questions the manner or extent.

Example: How did you prepare for the exam?

When: Questions the time.

Example: When does the training begin?

Where: Questions the place.

Example: Where is the examination center located?

Why: Questions the reason.

Example: Why did you choose the NDA?

How much/How many: Questions the degree or quantity.

Example: How much time is allotted for the English section?

Adverbs of Affirmation and Negation

They indicate certainty, approval, or denial.

- Affirmation: definitely, surely, certainly, indeed
- Negation: not, never, no
- *Example sentences:* He will surely win the competition. He is indeed a trustworthy friend. They will never forget your kindness.

Formation of Adverbs

Many adverbs are formed by adding the suffix **-ly** to adjectives, though not all adverbs follow this pattern. Understanding their formation is important for vocabulary-based questions in the NDA exam.

From Adjectives:

- Quick → Quickly
- Careful → Carefully
- Beautiful → Beautifully

Exceptions:

- Some adverbs retain the same form as adjectives: fast, hard, late.
Example: He runs fast. (Not "fastly")
- Some adverbs have irregular forms: good → well.
Example: She writes well. (Not "goodly")

Adverbs without -ly:

- Some words function as adverbs without the -ly suffix, especially in informal contexts.
Example: The plane flew low. ("Low" is an adverb modifying "flew")

Degrees of Comparison in Adverbs

Like adjectives, adverbs have three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative.

- **Positive Degree:** Describes the action without comparison.
Example: She runs quickly.
- **Comparative Degree:** Compares two actions.
Example: She runs more quickly than her friend.
- **Superlative Degree:** Compares more than two actions, indicating the highest degree.
Example: She runs most quickly.
- **Adverbs of Frequency:** Typically placed before the main verb but after the auxiliary verb.
Example: She always studies in the morning.
- **Adverbs of Degree:** Placed before the word they modify.
Example: The exam was very tough.
- **Multiple Adverbs:** Follow the order of manner, place, time.
Example: She performed brilliantly at the academy yesterday.

Formation rules

- For adverbs ending in -ly, use more and most: carefully → more carefully → most carefully.
- For short adverbs (often those not ending in -ly), add -er and -est: fast → faster → fastest.
- Irregular adverbs:
 - Well → Better → Best
 - Bad → Worse → Worst
 - Far → Farther/Further → Farthest/Furthest

Position of Adverbs

The placement of adverbs in a sentence affects its meaning and grammatical correctness, a common area tested in the exam. General rules include:

1. **Adverbs of Manner:** Usually placed after the verb or at the end of the clause.

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- Example: He answered confidently.
- 2. **Adverbs of Time:** Often placed at the beginning or end of a sentence.

Common Mistakes with Adverbs

Aspirants must avoid these frequent errors to score well in the English section:

- **Confusing Adjectives with Adverbs:**
Incorrect: She sings beautiful.
Correct: She sings beautifully.
- **Incorrect Positioning:**
Incorrect: She quickly will finish the task.
Correct: She will quickly finish the task.
- **Using Double Negatives with Adverbs:**

Incorrect: I don't need nothing urgently.
Correct: I don't need anything urgently.

- **Overusing -ly:**
Incorrect: He runs fastly.
Correct: He runs fast.
- **Wrong use of Comparative/Superlative Forms:**
Incorrect: She performs gooder than him.
Correct: She performs better than him.
- **Bare adverbs** (also called flat adverbs or simple adverbs) are adverbs that have the same form as their corresponding adjectives — they do not take the usual -ly ending.
Examples: fast, hard, late, early, high, low, deep, wide, right, straight, near, far, long, slow

Quick Reference Table

Type	Function	Examples	Key Notes (with Sentence Examples)
Simple Adverbs	Describe how, when, where, etc.	Quickly, today, here, always, very	- Manner: She completed the task <u>efficiently</u>. - Time: He will arrive <u>tomorrow</u>. - Place: The keys are <u>here</u>. - Frequency: She <u>always</u> checks her work. - Degree: I am <u>very</u> tired. - Reason: <u>Therefore</u>, we cancelled the event.
Relative Adverbs	Connect relative clauses	When, where, why	- This is the house <u>where</u> I was born. - Do you remember the day <u>when</u> we first met? - Nobody knows the reason <u>why</u> she left. - Used in complex sentences. Common in sentence correction.
Interrogative Adverbs	Ask questions	How, when, where, why, how much	- <u>How</u> did you solve the problem? - <u>When</u> will the train arrive? - <u>Where</u> are the documents kept? - <u>Why</u> was the report delayed? - Common in sentence completion and error spotting.

Important Rules of Adverbs

1. Adverbs with the Same Form as Adjectives

Some words do not change form when used as adverbs: *fast, first, next, back, ill, better, best, early*.

- He runs fast.
- She arrived first in the competition.
- We waited long for the bus.
- They came early to the party.

2. Difference between *Very* and *Much*

(a) *Very* is used with the positive degree, while *much* is used with the comparative degree.

- ✓ This painting is very beautiful.
- ✓ This design is much better than that one.

(b) *Very* is used with present participles (-ing forms), while *much* is used with past participles (-ed forms).

- ✓ The play was very entertaining.

- ✓ The audience was much excited by the play.

3. Use of *So* and *Too*

"So" must always be followed by *that*, and "too" by *to*. Without these correlatives, the sentence is incomplete.

- ✗ He is so tall.
- ✓ He is so tall that he touches the ceiling.
- ✗ She is too lazy.
- ✓ She is too lazy to finish the work on time.

4. Comparison of Adverbs Ending in -ly

Adverbs ending in -ly take *more* for comparative and *most* for superlative.

- ✓ The essay was written more neatly than the last one.

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- ✓ This poem is the most beautifully composed of all.

5. Position of Adverbs of Manner, Place, and Time

Adverbs of manner, place, and time usually come after the verb or its object.

- ✓ They played cricket enthusiastically.
- ✓ He is resting on the bed quietly.
- ✓ They completed the task carefully.
- ✓ We met in the park yesterday.

6. MPT Rule (Manner → Place → Time)

When manner, place, and time adverbs occur together, they must follow this sequence.

- ✗ She sang yesterday beautifully at the hall.
- ✓ She sang beautifully at the hall yesterday.

7. Use of Enough

As an adjective, *enough* comes before a noun. As an adverb, it follows the adjective it modifies.

- ✗ He is enough smart.
- ✓ He is smart enough to solve the puzzle.
- ✓ She has enough patience to teach children.

8. Adverb Position Before Adjectives/Adverbs

When an adverb modifies an adjective or another adverb, it comes before the word it modifies.

- ✗ His speech was prepared completely.
- ✓ His speech was completely prepared.
- ✓ She ran extremely fast.

9. Adverbs of Frequency

Adverbs like *always*, *never*, *seldom*, *often*, *frequently* are placed before the verb they modify.

- ✓ He always tells the truth.
- ✓ They seldom visit this temple.

10. Use of Only and Even

These must be placed immediately before the word they modify.

- ✗ I solved only five sums.
- ✓ I only solved five sums.
- ✗ He speaks even English correctly.
- ✓ He even speaks English correctly.

11. Adverb at the Beginning of a Sentence

An adverb may start a sentence to qualify the entire idea, not just one word.

- ✓ Luckily, we caught the train on time.
- ✓ Interestingly, the story has two endings.

12. Misuse of Ever and Never

The correct phrase is "**seldom if ever**" means *almost never* or *rarely, if at all*.

✓ **Correct:** He seldom if ever misses his prayers.

✗ **Wrong:** He seldom or ever misses his prayers

The correct phrase "**little if anything**" means almost nothing or very little.

✓ **Correct:** She did little if anything to help.

✗ **Wrong:** She did little or anything to help.

13. Else Followed by "But"

After *else*, use *but*, not *than*.

- ✗ It is nothing else than his mistake.
- ✓ It is nothing else but his mistake.

14. Use of Rather and Fairly

Both mean "moderately," but *fairly* is used with positive/favourable words, and *rather* with negative/unfavourable ones.

- ✓ She is fairly confident.
- ✓ The journey was rather tiring.

15. Rather for Correction

Rather can be used to correct what we have just said.

- ✓ The path is not straight, but rather winding.

16. Rather for Preference

Would rather, *had rather*, *rather than* are used to express choice or preference.

- ✓ I would rather walk than take the bus.
- ✓ He prefers reading rather than watching TV.

17. Use of Due To

"*Due to*" is a prepositional phrase that must be followed by a noun or noun phrase, not a verb. It is generally used after a form of the verb "be" (*is*, *was*, *were*, etc.) and shows cause or reason — meaning "because of" or "caused by".

- The match was stopped due to rain.
- The delay was due to heavy traffic.
- It was due to his carelessness that the loss occurred.

18. Rather for Polite Opinion

We use *rather* before verbs of thinking and feeling to state opinions politely.

- ✓ I rather believe she is telling the truth.
- ✓ I rather like the simplicity of this design.

19. Use of As After Certain Verbs

Verbs like *regard*, *describe*, *define*, *treat*, *view*, *know* take *as* before the predicative.

- ✓ They regard him as their leader.
- ✓ She is described as a talented artist.

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20. Avoid using "As" After Some Verbs

With verbs like *appoint, elect, call, consider, name, make, choose*, etc., *as* is unnecessary.

- X He was elected *as* the captain.
- ✓ He was elected captain.

21. Avoid Double Negatives

Two negatives in the same clause spoil the meaning. Avoid them.

- X He does not know nothing.
- ✓ He knows nothing.
- ✓ She hardly ever speaks in class.
- X *We don't want no trouble.*
- ✓ *We don't want any trouble.*

22. Noun vs. Adjective/Adverb Forms

Words like *coward, miser, rogue* are nouns; their adjective/adverb forms are *cowardly, miserly, roguish*.

- X He behaved *coward*.
- ✓ He behaved in a *cowardly* way.

23. Never vs. Not

Never means "at no time" and shows absolute negation, while *not* simply makes a verb or statement negative. So, *never* cannot always replace *not* because their meanings differ.

- X He is *never* a poor boy.
- ✓ He is *not* a poor boy.
- X I *never* remember meeting him.
- ✓ I *do not* remember ever meeting him.

Practice Sets: Adverb

Practice Set 1

- (A) Firstly, one must reflect / (B) over the meaning of the sentences / (C) before he uses them / (D) No error.
- (A) The cyclist tried his best / (B) to avoid the collision by bringing the cycle / (C) to a suddenly halt / (D) No error.
- (A) The Lakeview resort was well prepared / (B) to provide leisure stay / (C) to its visitors / (D) No error.
- (A) The instructor reminded them / (B) to have a thoroughly washing / (C) of the instruments after every class / (D) No error.
- (A) I am / (B) much pleased / (C) that you topped the exam / (D) No error.
- (A) She is too coward / (B) to express her opinion / (C) before everyone / (D) No error.
- (A) Scientists develop new ideas / (B) when they think / (C) different / (D) No error.
- I cannot ask (A) / my father for his car without (B) / any vividly reason. (C) / No Error (D)
- (A) See how careful / (B) the child arranges the blocks / (C) one over another to make a tower / (D) No error.
- (A) He is very / (B) blind to notice / (C) the fine details / (D) No error.
- The child listened attentive during the storytelling session.
- (A) They reached the station / (B) safely / (C) though they started lately. / (D) No error.

- (A) It is the duty of every soldier / (B) to do his best to defend / (C) the hardly earned freedom of the nation / (D) No error.
- (A) The headmaster was / (B) enough generous to / (C) grant me leave / (D) No error.
- (A) It is nothing else / (B) than ignorance / (C) that brought his failure / (D) No error.
- (A) I shall offer you a prize / (B) if you finish your task / (C) satisfactory / (D) No error.
- He behaved rather arrogant during the meeting, upsetting his colleagues..
- (A) I advised my cousin to hire two labourers instead of one / (B) because the load was too much heavy / (C) for one man to lift / (D) No error.
- I met her (A) / about ten years ago (B) / and have remembered her ever for. (C) / No Error (D)
- (A) Although I was / (B) in Mumbai last week / (C) I met her never. / (D) No error.
- (A) When I reached / (B) the hostel I was / (C) too exhausted to walk. / (D) No error.
- (A) I did not know hardly / (B) anyone in the village / (C) so I felt lonely / (D) No error.
- (A) I rarely notice something / (B) in the books / (C) that is worth keeping / (D) No error.
- (Her speech was delivered incredible fluently, captivating the entire audience.
- (A) Don't pause / (B) anywhere. Reach home / (C) directly / (D) No error.

Practice Set 2

- (A) He has no energy / (B) to play games / (C) and no interest neither / (D) No error.

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2. (A) He has not seldom / (B) written to his uncle / (C) since he moved abroad / (D) No error.
3. (A) It was much cold / (B) last evening & we / (C) did not step outside / (D) No error.
4. (A) I meet her / (B) near / (C) the City Library frequently / (D) No error.
5. (A) I told him / (B) as blunt as I could / (C) but he did not agree / (D) No error.
6. (A) My sister works / (B) very quicker than / (C) I at cooking / (D) No error.
7. (A) He is sure a good actor / (B) and no other actor / (C) is equal to him / (D) No error.
8. (A) It is wiser to be simple / (B) but don't be miser / (C) in helping the poor / (D) No error.
9. (A) I never remember / (B) to have seen / (C) a more exciting match in my life / (D) No error.
10. (A) I refused to / (B) travel with her because / (C) I was so sleepy / (D) No error.
11. (A) Mahatma Gandhi fought against / (B) social evils with / (C) tooth and nail / (D) No error.
12. (A) The boy entered the class / (B) lately and was punished / (C) by his teacher / (D) No error.
13. (A) He appears full of strength / (B) today because he / (C) soundly slept last night / (D) No error.
14. (A) They had barely nothing / (B) to drink when I met them / (C) last year / (D) No error.
15. (A) It had been too hot / (B) the whole season and we decided / (C) to stay in the hills / (D) No error.
16. (A) Never in the history of freedom struggle / (B) there has been as bold a leader / (C) as Bhagat Singh / (D) No error.
17. (A) He always boasts of / (B) his musical talent but he does not / (C) know to play properly / (D) No error.
18. (A) The examiner refused / (B) to consider her / (C) as a deserving candidate / (D) No error.
19. (A) He is considered / (B) as the best singer / (C) in the district / (D) No error.
20. (A) She felt alone / (B) in the village where / (C) no one recognised her / (D) No error.
21. (A) The dusk fell in / (B) even as he was / (C) returning home fastly / (D) No error.
22. (A) He is too generous / (B) to help / (C) everyone / (D) No error.
23. (A) The task was / (B) done carefully / (C) by them / (D) No error.
24. (A) She has / (B) enough strong evidence / (C) to prove her point / (D) No error..
25. (A) The train / (B) hardly left the station / (C) when it began to rain heavily / (D) No error.

Answers and Explanation

Practice Set 1

Q1. Error: *Firstly* → Correct: *First*
(Use "first" as sequence marker.)

Q2. Error: *suddenly stop* → Correct: *sudden stop*
(Adjective needed, not adverb.)

Q3. Error: *leisure stay* → Correct: *leisurely stay*
(Wrong word form.)

Q4. Error: *thoroughly washing* → Correct: *thorough cleaning*
(Adverb cannot modify noun.)

Q5. Error: *much pleased* → Correct: *very pleased*
(Adjective takes "very.")

Q6. Error: Coward → too cowardly

Q7. Error: *think different* → Correct: *think differently*
(Adverb required.)

Q8. Error: *'vividly'* → Correct: *'vivid'*

Q9. Error: *how careful* → Correct: *how carefully*
(Adverb required.)

Q10. Error: *very blind* → Correct: *too blind*

Q11. Error: Attentive Correction: Attentively

Q12. Error: lately → Correct: late

Q13. Error: *hardly won freedom* → Correct: *hard-won freedom* (Compound adjective.)

Q14. Error: *enough generous* → Correct: *generous enough* (Position of "enough.")

Q15. Error: *nothing else than* → Correct: *nothing else but*

Q16. Error: *satisfactory* → Correct: *satisfactorily*
(Adverb needed.)

Q17. The correct adverb is "arrogantly."

Q18. Error: *too much heavy* → Correct: *delete "much"*

Q19. Error: *for* → Correct: *since*, (*Since' is used with 'ever' as an adverb.*) *since ever*.

Q20. Error: I met her never → Correct: I never met her

Q21. No error.

Q22. Error: *did not know hardly* → Correct: *hardly knew* (Double negative.)

Q23. Error: *notice something* → Correct: *notice anything* (Negative sentence usage.)

Q24. Error: *incredible fluently* → *incredibly fluently*

Q25. No error.

Practice Set 2

Q1. Error: *no interest neither* → Correct: *no interest either* (Double negative.)

Q2. Error: *not seldom* → Correct: *seldom* (Wrong idiom.)

Q3. Error: *much cold* → Correct: *very cold* (Use "very" with adjectives.)

Q4. Error: frequently Correction: I meet her frequently near the City Library.

Q5. Error: *as blunt as* → Correct: *as bluntly as* (Adverb required.)

Q6. Error: *very quicker* → Correct: *much quicker* (Comparative degree.)

Q7. Error: *sure a good* → Correct: *surely a good* (Adverb required.)

Q8. Error: *don't be miser* → Correct: *don't be a miser* (Noun needs article.)

Q9. No error.

Q10. No error.

Q11. Error: *with tooth and nail* → Correct: *tooth and nail* (Wrong idiom.)

Q12. Error: *lately* → Correct: *late* (Wrong meaning.)

Q13. Error: *soundly slept* → Correct: *slept soundly*

Q14. Error: *barely nothing* → Correct: *barely anything* (Double negative.)

Q15. Error: *too hot* → Correct: *very hot* (Wrong degree word.)

Q16. Error: *there has been* → Correct: *has there been* (Inversion rule.)

Q17. Error: *know to play* → Correct: *know how to play* (Wrong structure.)

Q18. Error: *consider as* → Correct: *consider*

Q19. Error: *considered as best* → Correct: *considered the best* (Wrong idiom.)

Q20. Error: *felt alone* → Correct: *felt lonely*

Q21. Error: *fastly* → Correct: *fast* (No "-ly" form.)

Q22. Error: *too generous to help* → Correct: *so generous as to help* (Wrong usage of "too.")

Q23. Error: *done carefully* → Correct: *carefully done*

Q24. Error: *enough strong* → Correct: *strong enough evidence*

Q25. Error: *The train hardly left the station..* → Correct: *Hardly had the train left the station...*

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