

French Grammar Express- Adverbs

What is an adverb?

The car is **fast**. → An adjective describes the noun.

He drives **fast**. → The adverb modifies **the verb** (the action)

The car is **very fast**. → The adverb modifies **the adjective**.

He drives **very fast**. → The adverb modifies another **adverb**.

Unfortunately, I lost my keys. → The adverb modifies a whole sentence.

About adverbs

There are different types of adverbs:

• frequency	<i>souvent</i> [soovã]	Il pleut souvent .	<i>It often rains.</i>
• manner	<i>vite</i> [veet]	Il conduit vite .	<i>He drives fast.</i>
• place	<i>ici</i> [eessee]	J'habite ici .	<i>I live here.</i>
• quantity	<i>très</i> [treh]	C'est très amusant.	<i>It's very funny.</i>
• time	<i>hier</i> [eeyehr]	Il est parti hier .	<i>He left yesterday.</i>
• comparative	<i>moins</i> [mwë]	C'est moins cher.	<i>It's less expensive.</i>
• evaluative	<i>vraiment</i> [vrehmä]	J'aime vraiment ça.	<i>I really like that.</i>
• exclamative	<i>comme</i> [kohm]	Comme c'est drôle!	<i>How funny this is!</i>
• Interrogative	<i>pourquoi</i> [poorkwah]	Pourquoi tu ris?	<i>Why are you laughing?</i>
• negative	<i>ne...pas</i> [nuh...pah]	Je ne dors pas .	<i>I don't sleep.</i>
• pronominal	<i>y</i> [ee]	J'y vais.	<i>I'm going there.</i>
• superlative	<i>le plus</i> [luhpl↔]	C'est le plus grand.	<i>It's the tallest.</i>

About adverbs

☐ Adverbs are **invariable** (their spellings never change.)

☐ A lot of adverbs are formed from adjectives:

sad → **sadly** great → **greatly** extreme → **extremely**

The French equivalent of **-ly** is **-ment** [mä]

Tip!

Take an adjective

Make sure it's in the feminine form

Add '-ment'

heureux

heureuse

heureusement

happy

happily

If the adjective ends with a vowel, no need to go through the feminine form

absolu → **absolument**

Some irregular adverbs to bear in mind

ADJECTIVE (describes a noun) **ADVERB** (describes an action)

bon/bonne (good)	bien (well)
meilleur(e) (better)	mieux (better)
mauvais(e) (bad)	mal (badly)

- C'est un **bon** cuisinier; il fait **bien** la cuisine.
He's a good cook; he cooks well.
- C'est une **meilleure** cuisinière que toi; elle fait **mieux** la cuisine que toi.
She's a better cook than you; she cooks better than you.
- C'est un **mauvais** cuisinier; il fait **mal** la cuisine.
He is a bad cook; he cooks badly.

Position of adverbs

Most of the time adverbs are place **AFTER** the conjugated verb.

- Je **fais toujours** la cuisine. - *I always do the cooking.*
- Il **a trop mangé**. - *he ate too much.*
- Tu **dois vraiment** apprécier. - *You must really appreciate.*

Some adverbs are place **at the end of the sentence**.

- Je suis arrive(é) **tard**. - *I arrived late.*
- Il aime marcher **lentement** - *he likes walking slowly*