

20 English adverbs of manner to make your sentences more interesting

Adverbs are words that describe verbs or adjectives, and **adverbs of manner** tell us *how* or *in what way* an action was done. Here are some examples of adverbs of manner:

1. He **quickly** drank the water.
2. I laughed **nervously**.
3. She read the letter **carefully**.

Where should we put an adverb of manner in the sentence?

Adverbs of manner are typically located:

1. Immediately before the main verb
*He **quickly** drank the water.*
2. Immediately after the main verb
*I laughed **nervously**.*
3. If the main verb has an object, then put the adverb of manner either after the object or before the main verb
*She read the letter **carefully**.*
*She **carefully** read the letter.*
~~*She read **carefully** the letter.*~~

Adverbs of manner can help make your sentences more interesting, because they add more detail to the situation. Here are 20 interesting adverbs of manner, along with example sentences for each. Try to create your own example, too!

Anxiously

The adverb "anxiously" can mean *in a worried/nervous way* or *in an impatient way, wanting something to happen*.

- The mother watched **anxiously** as her child crossed the street alone.
= *in a worried way*
- Everyone's waiting **anxiously** for the concert tickets to go on sale.
= *impatiently; waiting for something to happen*

Awkwardly

The adverb "awkwardly" means *in a way that is NOT graceful or elegant*. This can refer to physical movements that are not elegant, or to social behavior that is not elegant.

- She apologized **awkwardly** after she realized she'd made an offensive comment.
= *social behavior that is not done in an elegant way*
- The four of us **awkwardly** lifted the sofa onto the moving truck.
= *physical movement that is not done in a comfortable/elegant way*

Calmly

If you do something "calmly," it means you do it in a way that is relaxed and not agitated. If you are calm, then your emotions/actions are at peace.

- He **calmly** explained his point of view.
- The cat walked **calmly** along the fence.

Cautiously

The adverb "cautiously" means to do something carefully, in a reserved way, to avoid danger or something bad happening.

- The rock climber **cautiously** adjusted his safety equipment.
- It's best to drive **cautiously** when the roads are icy.

Deliberately

If you do something "deliberately," it means you do it intentionally, on purpose - it was not an accident.

- The police think the fire was started **deliberately**.
- You **deliberately** ignored me when I asked you for help!

Eagerly

If you do something "eagerly," it means you are excited about it; you do it with a lot of energy because you want something to happen.

- The kids **eagerly** tore the wrapping paper off their Christmas presents.
- I **eagerly** accepted the job offer.

Faithfully

The adverb "faithfully" means that something is reliable; you can trust it and depend on it.

- She has worked for this company **faithfully** for ten years.
- This church has **faithfully** maintained its traditions.

Foolishly

The adverb "foolishly" describes an action that was stupid; it was not a good idea and the person didn't think about the consequences before doing the action.

- They **foolishly** spent all the money they inherited and didn't save any for the future.
- I **foolishly** committed to the project without knowing whether or not I'd have time for it.

Frantically

If you do something "frantically," it means you take a lot of quick action because you are very nervous or in a rush.

- I **frantically** took notes as the professor explained what would be on the test.
- The parents were searching **frantically** for their child who was lost in the park.

Gently

If you do something "gently," it means you do it with soft, delicate, careful movements so as not to hurt or damage something. Or it can also mean you do it with kindness so as not to hurt someone's feelings.

- She **gently** patted the baby on the back.
- The boss **gently** explained that I needed to do better work.

Hastily

The adverb "hastily" is another way to say "quickly / fast." It's also possible for "hastily" to have the connotation of being too fast, without taking the time to do things properly.

- I **hastily** packed my suitcase because I was already late for my flight.
- The ambulance arrived **hastily** at the scene of the accident.

Irritably

If you look at someone or say something "irritably," it means you are demonstrating your annoyance or slight anger in your eyes or tone of voice.

- He watched **irritably** as the mechanic fixed his car for the third time this month.
- "You always forget my birthday," she said **irritably**.

Painfully

The adverb "painfully" means that something causes pain (it makes part of your body hurt physically) or causes an unpleasant or uncomfortable feeling.

- I **painfully** stretched my legs after sitting in the same position for an eight-hour flight.
= *this action caused my legs to hurt*
- It's **painfully** obvious that he's not qualified for the job.
= *this observation makes us feel uncomfortable*

Poorly

The adverb "poorly" DOESN'T mean not having money. Instead, it means "badly."

- I was **poorly** prepared for the interview, and I couldn't answer any of the questions.
- Many of the students did **poorly** on the final exam.
- He got a stomach virus and has been feeling **poorly** all week.

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Promptly

The adverb "promptly" means "without delay," or "on time."

- The meeting will start **promptly** at 2:00.
- She lay down and **promptly** fell asleep.

Recklessly

If you do something "recklessly," it means you are NOT careful; you do things that might have a bad result in the future.

- My sister spends money **recklessly** and now she's in a lot of debt.
- If we continue to use natural resources **recklessly**, we'll destroy the planet.

Reluctantly

If you do something "reluctantly," it means you don't really want to do it.

- He **reluctantly** admitted that he was wrong.
- My son **reluctantly** shared his toys with his classmates.

Repeatedly

If something happens "repeatedly," it means it happens again and again, many times.

- You were expelled from school because you **repeatedly** broke the rules.
- I've contacted the company **repeatedly**, but I haven't gotten a reply.

Smoothly

If something goes "smoothly," it means it happens without difficulties or problems.

- The negotiations went **smoothly** and it was easy to reach an agreement.
- Moving to a new house never goes **smoothly**; there's always some last-minute problem.

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Wildly

The adverb "wildly" can mean "in an uncontrolled way," or it can mean "extremely."

- She waved her hands **wildly** to attract the attention of a police officer.
- That joke you made was **wildly** inappropriate for a professional context.



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