



She calmly picked up the gun and turned to face me with a blank stare. Was she possibly about to kill me too, I wondered. On a personal level I didn't care that much, but I felt extremely sorry for Matthews, lying dead on the floor in front of me.

'You knew Matthews was the murderer,' she said. 'And you led me straight to him.'

'Apparently, I did.' I answered. 'From time to time, I make mistakes.'

She laughed and said, 'Well the bad news for you is that I never make mistakes. And I won't this time either.' Her hand tightened round the gun.

## Presentation

Adverbs and adverbial phrases qualify a verb/verb phrase, an adjective, an adverb or a sentence.

### Types of adverb and adverbial phrase

- adverbs and adverbial phrases of manner describe how somebody does something or how something happens: *She **calmly** picked up the gun. She turned to face me **with a blank stare**.*
- adverbs and adverbial phrases of probability say how likely we think it is that something happened or will happen: *Was she **possibly** about to kill me too?*
- adverbs and adverbial phrases of degree talk about the strength or intensity of something: *I felt **extremely** sorry for Matthews.*
- frequency adverbs and adverbial phrases talk about how often something happens:  
***From time to time**, I make mistakes.*  
*I **never** make mistakes.*
- viewpoint adverbs and adverbial phrases limit the information or ideas in a sentence to a particular perspective: ***On a personal level** I didn't care that much.*
- comment adverbs and adverbial phrases express our point of view on information in a sentence: ***Apparently**, I led you straight to him.*

### Adverb position

#### • Front position

You can put the adverb before the subject. We often use comment and viewpoint adverbs like this: ***On a personal level** I didn't care that much.*

You can also use some frequency adverbs here (but not *always*) to add emphasis to the frequency: ***Sometimes**, I make mistakes.*

#### • Mid position

You can put the adverb in the mid position – after auxiliary verbs (including modal verbs) and before the main verb. Frequency adverbs, adverbs of degree and adverbs of probability are often placed in mid position: *I **never** make mistakes.*

#### • End position

You can put the adverb at the end of the sentence, or the end of the main clause. We often put adverbs and adverbial phrases of manner in end position:

*She turned to face me **with a blank stare**.*

*She played the guitar **really well**.*

## Exercises

- 1 Complete the table with the adverbs and adverbial phrases from the box. There are two for each category.

every week	extremely	from my point of view	in her case	interestingly
often	possibly	probably	rather	slowly
			surprisingly	very well

manner	probability	degree	frequency	viewpoint	comment
slowly					

- 2 Write the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- survives in the hero always these films
- don't personally speaking, mind I
- plays very well the saxophone she
- the answer interestingly, know they didn't
- midnight will they arrive at probably
- the absolutely was fascinating film

- 3 The adverbs in five of the sentences (1–8) are in the wrong position. Move them to a better position. Sometimes more than one position is correct.

- I was sitting comfortably on the sofa. ✓
- I heard a loud suddenly noise from outside. I suddenly heard a loud noise from outside.
- I went quickly to the door.
- I looked up and carefully down the street.
- Then I stepped out slowly and cautiously extremely.
- The street outside was silent completely.
- There was nothing or nobody there, apparently.
- So I closed quietly the door and went back to the TV.

- 4 Complete the text with the adverbs in the box.

extremely	suddenly	critically	in some cases	with great feeling
badly	probably			



He look at her <sup>1</sup> critically, <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, past contestants hadn't looked like future singers, but they had turned out to be <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ talented. However, she was <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the most unlikely looking pop star he'd ever seen. He was certain that she was going to sing really <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, the music started and she opened her mouth – it was the voice of an angel! She sang the song <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and, at the end, the whole audience stood up to applaud and cheer.