

Adverbs of Frequency

1	Grammar Notes	2
2	Fill in the Blanks	7
3	Patterns	8
4	Interview Your Partner	9
5	Writing	11
6	Class Survey	12
7	Quiz	13
A	Answer Key	14
B	How Often?	16

1 Grammar Notes

A. Introduction to Adverbs

An **adverb** is a word that describes a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a complete sentence.

#	Example	Explanation
1	They always walk to school.	The adverb <i>always</i> describes the verb <i>walk</i> .
2	My bicycle is really fast.	The adverb <i>really</i> describes the adjective <i>fast</i> .
3	My teacher speaks very quickly .	The adverb <i>very</i> describes the adverb <i>quickly</i> , and <i>quickly</i> describes the verb <i>speaks</i> .
4	I like the rain, actually .	The adverb <i>actually</i> describes the whole sentence.



1 Grammar Notes cont.

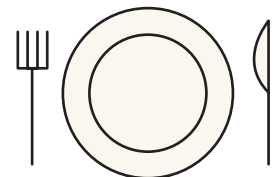
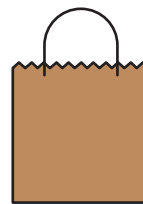
B. Adverbs of Frequency

Adverbs of frequency (also known as *frequency adverbs* or *adverbs of time*) answer the question **how often**.

Frequency	Adverb
100%	always
95%	almost always
80%	usually, often, frequently
50%	sometimes, occasionally
20%	not very often, seldom
10%	rarely
5%	almost never
0%	never

Examples:

- He goes shopping.
How often does he go shopping?
He **sometimes** goes shopping.
- My sister eats breakfast.
How often does she eat breakfast?
She **usually** eats breakfast.



1 Grammar Notes cont.

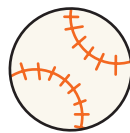
C. Patterns

Adverbs of frequency have two common sentence patterns in English.

1. Adv + V

Adverbs of frequency are usually placed **before** the verb they describe.

#	Example	Explanation
1	She never studies.	<i>Never</i> describes how often she <i>studies</i> .
2	My friend usually plays baseball with us.	<i>Usually</i> describes how often my friend <i>plays</i> baseball.
3	I always watch TV before bed.	<i>Always</i> describes how often I <i>watch</i> TV before bed.



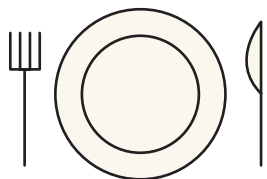
1 Grammar Notes cont.

C. Patterns cont.

2. BE + Adv

With the verb *to be* (*is, am, are*), adverbs of frequency come **after** the Be verb. The adverb usually describes an adjective.

#	Example	Explanation
1	My brother is always hungry.	<i>Always</i> describes how often he is <i>hungry</i> .
2	You are almost never late.	<i>Almost never</i> describes how often you are <i>late</i> .
3	Her children are often tired.	<i>Often</i> describes how often her children are <i>tired</i> .



1 Grammar Notes cont.

D. Take Note!

1

We can move *sometimes*, *often*, and *usually* around in a sentence.

These examples are all correct and have the same meaning:

- **Sometimes** he is late.
- He is **sometimes** late.
- He is late **sometimes**.



2

Be careful! *Not very often* has a different sentence pattern:

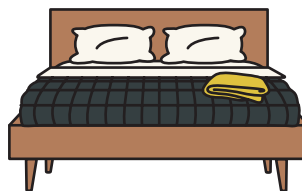
do/does + not + V + O + very often

- She **doesn't** go to parties **very often**.

3

Frequently, *occasionally*, and *seldom* are formal words that aren't common. Use *often/usually*, *sometimes*, and *not very often* instead.

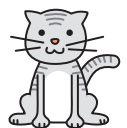
- ✓ We **frequently** visit our grandparents. (*formal*)
- ✓✓ We **often/usually** visit our grandparents. (*more common*)
- ✓ She **occasionally** cleans her room. (*formal*)
- ✓✓ She **sometimes** cleans her room. (*more common*)
- ✓ They **seldom** drink coffee. (*formal*)
- ✓✓ They **don't** drink coffee **very often**. (*more common*)



2 Fill in the Blanks

Write one adverb in each blank that matches the percentage.
Look at the chart on page 3 if you need to.

- Ex. She always eats breakfast.
(100%)
- 1 My brother _____ drives to school.
(50%)
- 2 They _____ walk their dog after dinner.
(80%)
- 3 She is _____ sad.
(5%)
- 4 Melissa _____ practices the piano after school.
(80%)
- 5 My neighbor goes swimming in his pool _____ .
(50%)
- 6 Daniela _____ texts me.
(10%)
- 7 Chris is _____ bored.
(0%)
- 8 He does _____ forget his homework _____ . (20%)
- 9 Your cat _____ wants to sit on me.
(100%)
- 10 She has _____ seen the ocean.
(0%)



3 Patterns

Rewrite the sentences in the correct order.
There may be more than one correct adverb position.

- Ex. ~~tests / difficult / English / are / often~~
English tests are often difficult.

- 1 ~~she / never / swimming / goes~~
She

- 2 is / friendly / ~~he~~ / always
He

- 3 shower / sing / + / often / in / the
I

- 4 ~~sister / my~~ / angry / gets / never / almost
My sister

- 5 movies / ~~he~~ / sometimes / likes / scary
He

- 6 delicious / almost / mother / your / food / always / cooks

- 7 often / don't / call / other / each / very / they

- 8 classmates / come / class / my / usually / time / on / to

- 9 we / go / vacation / on / in / always / summer / the

- 10 doesn't / she / do / homework / very / her / often

4 Interview Your Partner

A. Ask Questions

Ask your partner the following questions.
Write his or her answers using adverbs of frequency.

Ex. How often do you check your email?

He rarely checks his email.

1 How often do you wear running shoes?

2 How often do you eat junk food?

3 How often do you go to the dentist?

4 How often do you go to bed before 8:00 pm?

5 How often do you go camping?



4 Interview Your Partner **cont.**

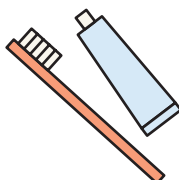
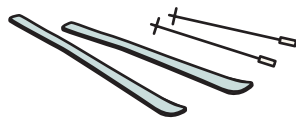
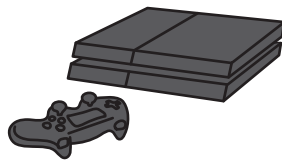
B. Write Questions

Now write three more questions with “how often” and then write your partner’s answers.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



6 Class Survey

Walk around your class and ask your classmates the questions below.

Try to talk to as many of your classmates as you can. You only need to write the adverb of frequency, but use complete sentences when you are speaking.

Example

Robyn: Tara, how often do you do your homework?

Tara: I always do my homework.

Robyn writes Tara's name and the adverb of frequency "always" in the chart.

#	How often do you...	Name	Adverb of Frequency
1	do your homework?		
2	go out for dinner?		
3	go to the movies?		
4	read books?		
5	study English?		
6	play sports?		
7	text your friends?		
8	call your family?		
9	brush your teeth before bed?		
10	sleep in?		

7 Quiz

Circle the correct answer.

- 1 The bus _____ arrives on time.
(10%)
a) sometimes
b) rarely
c) always
- 2 Our teacher _____ gives us homework.
(95%)
a) almost always
b) never
c) always
- 3 He is _____ on time for class.
(5%)
a) almost never
b) sometimes
c) often
- 4 I do _____ read books _____. (20%)
a) not, rarely
b) not, seldom
c) not, very often
- 5 My friend cries during movies _____.
(50%)
a) sometimes
b) often
c) almost always
- 6 They are _____ tired on Mondays.
(80%)
a) usually
b) always
c) rarely
- 7 My parents _____ go to Hawaii on vacation.
(80%)
a) very often
b) often
c) never
- 8 I _____ babysit my younger cousins.
(50%)
a) rarely
b) always
c) sometimes
- 9 She _____ brushes her teeth before bed.
(100%)
a) almost never
b) almost always
c) always
- 10 He _____ goes skiing.
(0%)
a) not very often
b) never
c) rarely

A Answer Key

2 Fill in the Blanks

1. sometimes / occasionally
2. usually / often / frequently
3. almost never
4. usually / often / frequently
5. sometimes / occasionally
6. rarely
7. never
8. not, very often
9. always
10. never

3 Patterns

1. She never goes swimming.
2. He is always friendly.
3. I often sing in the shower. /
Often, I sing in the shower. /
I sing in the shower often.
4. My sister almost never gets angry.
5. He sometimes likes scary movies. /
Sometimes he likes scary movies. /
He likes scary movies sometimes.
6. Your mother almost always cooks delicious food.
7. They don't call each other very often.
8. My classmates usually come to class on time. /
Usually, my classmates come to class on time. /
My classmates come to class on time, usually.
9. We always go on vacation in the summer.
10. She doesn't do her homework very often.

4 Interview Your Partner

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct spoken and written sentences.

5 Writing

Answers will vary.

6 Class Survey

Answers will vary. If your students can handle it, have them ask a follow-up question.

John: How often do you go to the movies?

Mary: I don't go to the movies very often.

John: Why not?

Mary: Because my parents think it's too expensive.

You may want to follow up by having students report on their findings. (E.g., John: Mary doesn't go to the movies very often because her parents think it's too expensive.)

(continued on the next page...)

A Answer Key cont.

7 Quiz

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. a | 5. a | 7. b | 9. c |
| 2. a | 4. c | 6. a | 8. c | 10. b |

B How Often?

Optional activity. Cut up the premade question cards (Part 1) and/or have students make their own using the blank cards (Part 2). Cards can be used for a variety of activities. One suggestion is to put students in groups and have students take turns choosing a question card and answering using an adverb of frequency in a complete sentence. If a student answers correctly, he or she gets a point. The student with the most points wins.

Spelling Notes:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Neighbor*, *Color*, *Jewelry*, and *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Neighbour*, *Colour*, *Jewellery*, and *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

B How Often?

1. Question Cards

How often do you exercise?	How often do you play tennis?
How often do you go snowboarding?	How often do you go shopping?
How often do you walk your dog?	How often do you go to the movies?
How often do you bake cookies?	How often do you watch TV?
How often do you clean your room?	How often do you listen to music?
How often do you make a mistake?	How often do you play an instrument?
How often do you go skiing?	How often do you do the dishes?
How often do you arrive early to class?	How often do you talk on the phone?
How often do you arrive late to class?	How often do you wear bright colors?
How often do you do your homework?	How often do you wear jewelry?
How often do you speak in English?	How often do you go hiking?
How often do you look up a word in your dictionary?	How often do you go swimming?
How often do you play video games?	How often do you text your friends or family?

