

THE MIDSSENTENCE ADVERB

POSITIVE

ALWAYS • STILL • FINALLY • JUST • PROBABLY • USUALLY • SOMETIMES • OFTEN

Simple Past and Present:

Before all verbs

He { **always** } *comes* to class.
He { **already** } *came* to class.

After BE verb

He *is* { **always** } here.
He *was* { **already** } here.

Modals and Auxiliaries:

In-between helping & main verbs

He *will* { **always** } *be* there.
He *has* { **probably** } *done* it.
He *will have* { **finally** } *done* it.
He *will* { **usually** } *have done* it.

Compare: You *already have to* do it.

Questions:

After subject

Has *he* { **already** } done it?
Will *he* { **always** } be on time?

NEGATIVE

NEVER • ALMOST NEVER • HARDLY EVER • HARDLY • BARELY • RARELY • SELDOM

Negative Adverbs **by themselves** follow the rules above:

Positive Adverbs of Frequency can appear **before** or **after NOT**:

USUALLY
OFTEN
SOMETIMES
NORMALLY

She { **usually** } *won't* { **usually** } do it.
She { **often** } *won't* { **often** } do it.
She { **sometimes** } *doesn't* { **sometimes** } come.
She { **normally** } *doesn't* { **normally** } come.

Borderline Negative Adverbs

&

Adverbs of Probability appear **before NOT**:

She { **periodically** } *won't* go.
She { **occasionally** } *doesn't* do it.

It { **possibly** } *won't* rain.
She { **certainly** } *won't* know.

100 % Adverbs always **after**:

ALWAYS
EVER

She *doesn't* { **always** } come to class.
She *won't* { **ever** } do it.

Compare: He *will never* do it.



NEGATIVE ADVERB INVERSION

Inversion Negative Adverbs require an **auxiliary** or a **subject verb switch** to begin a sentence. Inverted sentences are usually more literally, formal, and exclamatory.

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|---------|--|--------------------|
| $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Never} \\ \text{Seldom} \\ \text{Rarely} \\ \text{Scarcely ever} \\ \text{Hardly ever} \end{array} \right\}$ | have we seen such a sight. | OR | We have | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{never} \\ \text{seldom} \\ \text{rarely} \\ \text{scarcely ever} \\ \text{hardly ever} \end{array} \right\}$ | seen such a sight. |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|---------|--|--------------------|

ALREADY & STILL & EVER

ALREADY: *"Something that happened before now"*

USUALLY Midsentence: He has **already** done it.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| He has done it already . | → | Stronger Emphasis |
| Already he has done it. | → | Rare or Questionable Usage |

STILL: *"A situation that continues without change"*

Either affirmative **OR** negative and Midsentence **ONLY**:

| Questions | BE Verb | Other Verbs |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Is it still cold? | It is still cold today. | He still knows . |
| Does she still know? | She still isn't here. | She could still be traveling. |
| Has it still not arrived? | It is still not here. | It still hasn't arrived. |
| It still has not arrived? | | It has still not arrived. |

May appear at end of sentence for surprise and confirmation:

It hasn't arrived **still!?**

EVER: *"Something in all cases or times"*

Can only appear in **questions after** subject

AND after not or other **negative adverbs** in **statements**:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Is he ever there? | He never went. |
| Did he ever go? | He did not ever go. |
| Is he ever going? | He barely ever tries. |
| Could he ever gone? | He hardly ever gives it much thought. |

END SENTENCE ADVERBS: YET & ANYMORE

YET: *"Something has **not** happened up to this time, but it may."*

I haven't finished it **YET**. = I **STILL** haven't finished it.

ANYMORE: *"No more, any longer"*

| | |
|------------|--|
| Statement: | He doesn't work there ANYMORE |
| Question: | Doesn't he work there ANYMORE ? |

Note: "Anymore" does not work with simple perfect tenses.

**** I have not worked there anymore ****



Frequency Adverbs

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| never | <i>rarely</i> | <i>periodically</i> | often | usually | constantly | always |
| not ever | <i>infrequently</i> | <i>occasionally</i> | sometimes | normally | habitually | |
| | <i>seldom</i> | <i>sporadically</i> | repeatedly | mostly | chiefly | |
| | <i>scarcely</i> | <i>intermittently</i> | frequently | generally | predominantly | |
| | | | | commonly | typically | |
| | | | | largely | continuously | |
| | | | | regularly | | |

Borderline Negative Adverbs

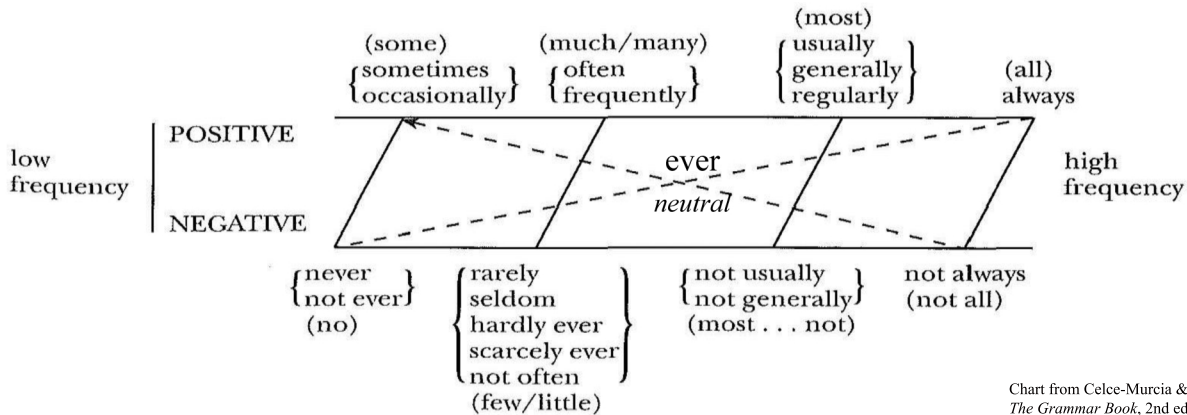


Chart from Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman's
The Grammar Book, 2nd edition, p. 507

TONE & STRESS

Tone and Word Stress can break the above rules. They can override word order and make questions out of sentences *structured* like statements.

It hasn't come **YET?**

He doesn't work there **ANYMORE?**

When mid-sentence adverbs are out of place they tend to have stronger stress, but **some** are more flexible and **some** are awkward in certain positions.

INITIAL PREFERENCE

*sometimes, occasionally,
frequently, **usually**,
generally, regularly*

FINAL PREFERENCE

*sometimes, occasionally,
frequently, **often**,
negative adverbs*

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| sometimes, he does it | he sometimes does it | he does sometimes it | he does it sometimes |
| sometimes, he is here | <u>he sometimes is here</u> | <u>he is sometimes here</u> | he is here sometimes |
| <u>often, he is here</u> | he often is here | he is often here | he is here often |
| usually, she's here | she usually is here | she is usually here | <u>she is here usually</u> |
| <u>already she did it?</u> | she already did it? | She did already it? | she did it already? |

