

9.1 Adjectives and adverbs

GR9.1

- 1 He's a **remarkably successful** writer. He's sold millions of books.
- 2 Emer **frequently** pops in for a chat. I think she must be a bit lonely.
- 3 I'm meeting Kurt **at the theatre at 7.00 p.m. tomorrow evening**.
- 4 Don't push so **hard!** You'll break it.

Adjectives

We use adjectives to add descriptive detail to people or things. Adjectives can be used:

- before a noun.
*We had a **fantastic** time.*
- after a noun or pronoun in questions with *to be*.
*Was the hotel **expensive**?*
- after a verb such as *be, seem, look, feel, sound, become, get*.
*Did the new guy seem **nice**?*
*Hurry up – it's getting **late**!*

Not all adjectives can be used in all positions.

Adverbs

We use adverbs in a number of ways:

- We use adverbs of manner to say **how** something happens. They most commonly go after the verb and its object, but those ending in *-ly* can sometimes go before the verb.
*The roads were icy, so we drove very **carefully**.*
*He was driving **at over 150 kmh**.*
- We use adverbs of frequency to say **how often** something is done. They generally go before the verb, but they go after *to be*.
*It **sometimes** rains here.*
*The meetings are **usually** in Room 10.*
- We use adverbs of time to say **when** something happens.
*I've **just** emailed you those photos.*
- We use adverbs of place to say **where** something happens.
*I saw Jenny **in town** yesterday.*

When you are mentioning both time and place, the position of the adverbs can depend on the verb. For verbs that have a strong connection with place (e.g. *go, come, arrive, leave, stay, live*) we generally put the place before the time.
*We went to London **at the weekend**.*

- We use adverbs of degree to express the **degree or extent** of something. We use adverbs of degree with adjectives, adverbs and verbs. It goes directly before the word it is modifying.
*It's **really** sunny today.*
*I'm **absolutely** freezing!*
- We use some adverbs to *express an attitude* towards something.
*I **disagree** with you, **actually**.*

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
 - 1 *Amazing / Amazingly*, it didn't rain once when we were *last year in the UK / in the UK last year*.
 - 2 It's *great really / really great* now that the days *are longer getting / are getting longer*.
 - 3 He's been working really *hard / hardly* for his exams. In fact, he's always a *hard / hardly* worker.
 - 4 We *usually go / go usually* to the gym at 7 a.m. / *at 7 a.m. to the gym*.
 - 5 I *often am / am often* the *last / lastly* person to leave *work these days / these days work*.
- 2 Complete each extract with the correct words and phrases in the box.

1

between the North and South Pole imaginary
on its axis **steadily**

We have day and night because the Earth
1 **steadily** rotates 2 _____.
The Earth's axis is a/an 3 _____ line passing
through the centre of the Earth 4 _____.

2

at other times other sometimes visible

At any time, half of the Earth faces the sun, giving it
daylight, and the 5 _____ half faces away
from the sun, giving it night-time. This explains why the sun
is 6 _____ 7 _____ and
why we can't see it 8 _____.

3

across the sky during the day from east to west
highest however 12 noon

9 _____, the sun seems to move
10 _____ 11 _____,
reaching its 12 _____ position at
13 _____ 14 _____,
the sun does not move. It is the movement of the Earth
that gives this impression.

4

all the time constant smoothly

The Earth rotates 15 _____, but
we don't feel any movement because it turns
16 _____ and at a/an
17 _____ speed.

5

away from the sun longer different (x2) towards the sun

The angle of the Earth means that days and nights are
18 _____ lengths at 19 _____
times of year. Days are 20 _____ where
the Earth is angled 21 _____ and shorter in
those places which are angled 22 _____.

9.2 Past and present habits

GR9.2))

- 1 I never **used to** like classical music, but now I find listening to it very relaxing.
- 2 My grandfather **would always check** the farm animals were content before he went to bed.
- 3 **I'm not used to making** phone calls in Spanish. I find them a bit stressful.
- 4 I don't think **I'll ever get used to taking** my tea without sugar.

Past habits

- We use *used to* + infinitive to talk about past habits, typical behaviour, states and situations that no longer exist.

*I **used to go** to bed around midnight when I was a teenager.
We **used to live** in Manchester for a few years.*

Note that there is no final *-d* in negatives and questions.

*I **didn't use to** read much as a child.
Did you **use to** do any sports?*

- We also use *would* + infinitive to talk about past habits and typical behaviour. However, we do not use *would* to talk about past states.

*I **would go** to bed around midnight when I was a teenager.
NOT ~~We would live in Manchester for a few years.~~*

Present habits

- To talk about present habits, we can use the present simple tense, often with an adverb of frequency, such as *usually*, *often*, *always*, etc.

*I **usually watch** TV for an hour or so in the evening.*

- We use *be used to* + *-ing* to say that we are, or aren't, familiar with or accustomed to something.

*I'm **used to getting** up early these days.
I'm **not used to driving** on the left.*

- We use *get used to* + *-ing* to say that we are becoming, or have become, familiar with or accustomed to something.

*We're **getting used to living** here.
I **got used to driving** on the right pretty quickly when I lived in Italy.*

We can also use *be/get used to* + noun
*I'm not used to **the weather** here.
I'm getting used to **the food**.*

- 1 Complete the sentences using the correct form of *used to* and the verb in brackets. In which sentences can we use *would* in place of *used to*?
 - 1 Alaska _____ (belong) to Russia. The United States bought it from Russia in 1867.
 - 2 There _____ (be) nine planets in the solar system, but now there are only eight. Pluto was declassified as a planet in 2006.
 - 3 **A** How did people communicate before writing was invented?
B They _____ (use) images and symbols called pictograms. These developed into writing.
- 2 Complete the extracts using the correct form of *be/get used to* and the verbs in brackets.

- 1 In Sweden, on 3 September, 1967, at exactly 4.50 a.m. all cars changed from driving on the left side of the road to the right. It took some time for people to _____ (drive) on the 'wrong' side and there were quite a few accidents at first.
- 2 In today's globalized world, most people in cities _____ (hear) a number of different languages as they walk along the street. For example, over 250 languages are spoken in London, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world.
- 3 Today, thanks to the internet, we _____ (get) a lot of the information we need almost instantly. While this is certainly a positive thing, this also means that we are _____ (not wait) for things, and are perhaps becoming more and more impatient.

- 3 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

get/used/go ~~used/be~~ used/go used/sleep
would/begin would/be/follow

Sleep patterns today are not the same as they ¹ *used to be*. Today, we ² _____ to bed and sleeping for up to eight hours. However, recent research suggests that the eight-hour unbroken sleep may be unnatural. There is a great deal of historical evidence that humans ³ _____ in two distinct phases. The first phase of sleep ⁴ _____ about two hours after dusk, and this ⁵ _____ a few hours later by a waking period of one or two hours.

The change towards an unbroken night's sleep started in the late 17th century. Due to improvements in street lighting and domestic lighting, people were now able to do much more after nightfall. As a result, people soon ⁶ _____ to bed later and sleeping all night. It wasn't until the 1920s that the idea of a first and second sleep had completely disappeared.