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### uses

In French as in English, an adverb describes the action of a verb. It answers such questions as 'where', 'when,' 'how,' 'how long,' or 'how often.' Adverbs are invariable and may be used with almost all verbs. For example:

 Edouard cuisine <b>bien</b> .	Edouard cooks well.
Joe-Bob mange <b>beaucoup</b> .	Joe-Bob eats a lot.



An adverb may also qualify an adjective or another adverb. Consider the sentence: 'Edouard cuisine **très bien**' (Edouard cooks very well). **Très** qualifies **bien** and both describe the action of the verb 'cuisiner'.

### common adverbs

Following is a list of frequently used adverbs, categorized by type:

 <b>manner</b>	<b>bien</b> , well	<b>mal</b> , badly	<b>vite</b> , quickly
<b>time</b>	<b>souvent</b> , often	<b>quelquefois</b> , sometimes	<b>toujours</b> , always
	<b>jamais</b> , never	<b>tôt</b> , early	<b>tard</b> , late
	<b>bientôt</b> , soon	<b>aujourd'hui</b> , today	<b>hier</b> , yesterday
	<b>maintenant</b> , now	<b>déjà</b> , already	<b>demain</b> , tomorrow
<b>place</b>	<b>dedans</b> , inside	<b>dehors</b> , outside	<b>ici</b> , here
	<b>là</b> , there	<b>partout</b> , everywhere	<b>quelque part</b> , somewhere
<b>quantity or degree</b>	<b>beaucoup</b> , a lot	<b>très</b> , very	<b>trop</b> , too much
	<b>assez</b> , enough	<b>peu</b> , little, not much	<b>peut-être</b> , maybe
<b>sequence</b>	<b>d'abord</b> , at first	<b>puis</b> , then, next	<b>alors</b> , then, so
	<b>donc</b> , thus	<b>enfin</b> , finally	

### formation of regular adverbs

A large number of French adverbs are derived from adjectives.

They are usually formed by adding **-ment** to the **feminine singular form of the adjective**. Note the exception 'gentiment', which is derived from the adjective 'gentil' (nice).

 lent(e), slow	lente <b>ment</b> , slowly
doux (douce), soft	douce <b>ment</b> , softly

heureux (heureuse), happy  
franc (franche), frank

heureuse**ment**, happily, fortunately  
franche**ment**, frankly

However, **-ment** is added to the **masculine singular form of adjectives that end with a vowel**. Note the exception 'gaiement' which is derived from the adjective 'gai' (cheerful).

 poli(e) polite	poli <b>ment</b> , politely
absolu(e), absolute	absolu <b>ment</b> , absolutely
vrai(e), true, real	vrai <b>ment</b> , truly, really
modéré(e), moderate	modéré <b>ment</b> , moderately

Add **-emment** to the stem of adjectives that end in **-ent**; add **-amment** to the **stem of adjectives ending in -ant**. The stem is what remains of the adjective when **-ent** or **-ant** have been removed. Note that the one-syllable adjective 'lent' does not form its adverb, 'lentement', on this model.

 récent, recent	ré <b>cemment</b> , recently
fréquent, frequent	fréqu <b>emment</b> , frequently
suffisant, sufficient	suffis <b>amment</b> , sufficiently
méchant, wicked, malicious	méch <b>amment</b> , wickedly, nastily

Note the addition of an acute accent to form the following adverbs:


 précis(e), precise	précis <b>ément</b> , precisely
profond(e), deep	profond <b>ément</b> , deeply
énorme, huge, enormous	énorm <b>ément</b> , enormously

### placement

Use the following guidelines for placement of adverbs.

#### adverbs that modify an adjective or another adverb

Adverbs are placed directly before the adjective or adverb that they modify.

 Edouard: J'habite le Texas depuis <b>très</b> longtemps, mais je trouve que le barbecue est <b>vraiment</b> dégueulasse!	Edouard: I've lived in Texas for a very long time, but I find that barbecue is truly disgusting!
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#### adverbs that modify a verb

Adverbs are usually placed immediately after the conjugated verb. If the verb is negative, the adverb is placed after the negation.



## EDOUARD COMPREND MAL LES HABITUDES AMÉRICAINES



Edouard comprend **mal** les habitudes culinaires américaines.

Edouard understands poorly American culinary habits.

Edouard ne marche pas **vite**, parce qu'il sait **déjà** ce que les clients vont commander.

Edouard is not walking fast, because he already knows what the customers are going to order.

Edouard: Ils exigent **toujours** du ketchup, mais il n'y a pas de ketchup dans mon restaurant.

Edouard: They always demand ketchup, but there is no ketchup in my restaurant.

Note that most common adverbs are placed directly after the verb before the objects.



Joe-Bob: J'aime **beaucoup** le ketchup!

Joe-Bob: I like ketchup a lot!

Edouard: J'aime **davantage** le foie gras!

Edouard: I like foie gras even more!

### adverbs that modify a whole sentence

If an adverb is a comment on the entire sentence (**malheureusement, en plus**), it may be placed at the beginning or end of the sentence. Adverbs of this type include **adverbs of time and place**. In the following dialogue, contrast the adverbs that modify the whole sentence to those that modify just the verb.



Joe-Bob: Edouard, viens dîner avec nous **ce soir**!

Joe-Bob: Edouard, come out to eat with us this evening!

Edouard: Je n'aime pas dîner dans des restaurants américains parce que je trouve du ketchup **partout**.

Edouard: I don't like to eat in American restaurants because I find ketchup everywhere.

Vous allez **sûrement** au Salt Lick, et tu sais que je déteste le barbecue.

You're surely going to go to the Salt Lick and you know that I detest barbecue.

Joe-Bob: **Malheureusement**, on n'a pas assez d'argent pour aller dans un restaurant snob!

Joe-Bob: Unfortunately, we don't have enough money to go to a snobby restaurant!

Edouard refuse **obstinément** l'invitation de Joe-Bob: Tu m'invites **souvent**, mais toujours à l'américaine!

Obstinately, Edouard refuses Joe-Bob's invitation: You invite me out to eat often, but always in the American style.

See [placement of adverbs with passé composé](#) and the periphrastic future for further examples.





**fill in the blanks**

Adverb placement: Complete the answers to Tammy's questions using the adverb in parentheses.

1. Tammy : Tu comprends la poésie de Tex? Trey : Non, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_. (mal)
2. Tammy : Tu aimes le chocolat? Tex : Oui, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_.(énormément)
3. Tammy : Comment va Rita? Tex : Elle \_\_\_\_\_. (très bien)
4. Tammy : Tu aimes le café? Tex : Oui, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_. (beaucoup)
5. Tammy : Tu penses à Bette? Trey : Oui, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_. (toujours)
6. Tammy : Bette est sexy? Trey : Ah oui, elle \_\_\_\_\_.(extraordinairement)
7. Tammy : Tu aimes les noix? Joe-Bob : Oui, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_.(beaucoup)
8. Tammy : Tu manges du chili? Joe-Bob : Oui, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_.(souvent)
9. Tammy : Tu aimes Sartre? Tex : Oh oui, je/j' \_\_\_\_\_. (vraiment)
10. Tammy : Tex connaît Trey? Tammy : Non, Tex \_\_\_\_\_. (bien)
11. Tammy : Tex est génial! Bette : Oui, Tex \_\_\_\_\_. (absolument)
12. Tammy : Tex porte un béret? Edouard : Oui, Tex \_\_\_\_\_.(fréquemment)