

Adjuncts

The Adjunct (A) is usually an optional element in sentence structure and characterizes an action as to its quality or quantity or indicates the time, place, cause, purpose etc, with which the action is connected. This means it may tell when, where, why, how to what degree, under what condition, in spite of what condition the action may take place.

The children play.

The children play happily

The children play every day

The children play in the garden

With some exceptions adjuncts are not grammatically necessary. Nevertheless they usually add some very important information.

Mary broke the vase

Mary broke the vase on purpose

Mary's brother got married

Mary's brother got married last Saturday

The Adjunct is obligatory only in the sentence patterns:

S P A

My car is in the garage

S P DO A

She puts some flowers into the vase

The adjunct is realized by:

adverbial phrases

prepositional phrases

noun phrases

1. Adverbial phrases:

They fought bravely

We have almost forgotten it

I remember it quite well

You did it very well indeed

2. Prepositional phrases:

I haven't seen you for months.

The tears ran down her cheeks

They were climbing up the mountain

3. Noun phrases

The journey lasted a week

That will cost you a fortune

The trains leave every hour

He was in Paris last month

Semantic classification of Adjuncts

The classification of adjuncts according to their meaning depends largely on the lexical meaning of the words represented in the adjunct.

Let's compare the adjuncts in the following two sentences:

She works in the library

She works in the afternoon

The difference between the adjunct of place represented by the prepositional phrase **in the library** and the adjunct of time represented by the prepositional phrase **in the afternoon** is based only on the lexical meaning of the words **library** (denoting place) and **afternoon** (denoting time)

As you can see from these two examples adjuncts of time, place, manner, frequency, can easily be recognized and classified as such. However, not every adjunct can be ascribed to a particular class.

Consequently, the classification of adjuncts according to their meaning is anything but complete.

According to their meaning adjuncts may be classified into three groups:

- 1) Qualitative Adjuncts
- 2) Quantitative adjuncts
- 3) Circumstantial adjuncts

1) Qualitative adjuncts or adjuncts of manner denote the quality of an action, Here belong: fast, hard, well, beautifully, noisily, in a friendly way, very briefly, by chance, by heart, arm in arm, in a rush, too quickly etc.

Learning rules by heart is useless

We always have lunch in a rush

2) Quantitative adjuncts denote the intensity or the extent of an action. They comprise:

a) Adjuncts of degree: almost, even, hardly, nearly, partly, thoroughly, very much, extremely, quite, slightly, considerably.

I do not quite understand what he is up to

He was nearly knocked down by a cyclist

b) Adjuncts of measure: including cost, distance, weight, these adjuncts are mainly represented by noun phrases e.g. a lot, three males, two pounds, a great deal, very little, six yards.

The new bungalow will cost him a lot

He spends about 50 p. on bus fares a day

c) Circumstantial adjuncts express various circumstances in which an action takes place

Here belong:

a) Adjuncts of time e.g. now, then, tomorrow, yesterday, at noon, in the morning, on Friday, last summer, four years ago.

He took his master's degree four years ago

b) Adjuncts of frequency: e.g. always, ever, never, often, rarely, seldom, usually, regularly, each year, occasionally, from time to time, every two weeks, annually.

I never drink milk.

c) Adjuncts of place and direction: e.g. here, there, everywhere, nowhere, somewhere, in the corner, on the stage, in London, at school, at University, towards the window.

He lives in London

d) Adjuncts of instrument:

He cut it with a knife