# CONTRASTIVE SYNTACTIC FUNCTION OF THE ADVERB

# SPANISH: FUNCIÓN SINTÁCTICA DEL ADVERBIO

Las **funciones sintácticas del adverbio** son, aparte de la de núcleo del sintagma **adverbial**, las de complemento circunstancial del verbo, la de cuantificador, grado o complemento del adjetivo («muy bueno», «recién hecho») y las de cuantificador de otro **adverbio** («bastante lejos»).

El adverbio es una clase heterogénea de palabras, con una función sintáctica predominante (complemento circunstancial), pero no exclusiva, puesto que puede cumplir otras funciones.

La palabra *adverbio* viene del latín *adverbium*, construida con el prefijo <*ad->* («hacia», «junto»), <*verbum>* («palabra», «verbo») y el sufijo nominal <*-ium>*. El término implica que la función principal de los adverbios es actuar como *modificadores o complementos de un verbo o frase verbal*.

Un **adverbio** es una palabra que complementa a un *verbo, un adjetivo, otros adverbios* e incluso *oraciones*. Los adverbios expresan circunstancias, como pueden ser modo, lugar, tiempo, cantidad, afirmación, duda, etc., respondiendo a preguntas como *¿cuándo?*, *¿dónde?*, *¿cómo?*, *¿de qué manera?*, entre otras. Esta función es llamada función adverbial, y puede ser llevada a cabo por palabras aisladas (adverbios) o por grupos de dos o más palabras (locuciones adverbiales).

Es un tipo de palabra invariable que actúa como núcleo del sintagma adverbial, complementando a un verbo, un adjetivo u otro adverbio. Las funciones sintácticas del adverbio son, aparte de la de núcleo del sintagma adverbial, las de complemento circunstancial del verbo, la de cuantificador, grado o complemento del adjetivo (*muy* bueno, *recién* hecho) y las de cuantificador de otro adverbio (*bastante* lejos). Algunos adverbios pueden funcionar como predicado dirigido hacia un sujeto y junto a una cópula verbal (**está** *divinamente*).

### **Clases de adverbios en Español**

Tradicionalmente los adverbios se han dividido en las siguientes categorías:

* Adverbios de ubicación*, tiempo y espacio, modo* y cantidad.
* Adverbios de lugar: aquí, allí, ahí, allá, acá, arriba, abajo, cerca, lejos, delante, detrás, encima, debajo, enfrente, atrás, alrededor.
* Adverbios de tiempo: antes, después, luego, pronto, tarde, temprano, todavía, aún, ya, ayer, hoy, mañana, siempre, nunca, jamás, próximamente, prontamente, anoche, enseguida, ahora, mientras, anteriormente.
* Adverbios de modo: bien, mal, regular, despacio, deprisa, así, tal, como, aprisa, adrede, peor, mejor, fielmente, estupendamente, fácilmente, negativamente, responsablemente —todas las que se formen con las terminaciones «mente»—.
* Adverbios de cantidad o grado: muy, poco, mucho, bastante, más, menos, algo, demasiado, casi, solo, solamente, tan, tanto, todo, nada, aproximadamente
* Adverbios que cumplen la función de *epistémicos*:
* Adverbios de afirmación: sí, también, cierto, ciertamente, efectivamente, claro, exacto, obvio, verdaderamente, seguramente, asimismo, etc.
* Adverbios de negación: no, jamás, nunca, tampoco.
* Adverbios de orden: primeramente, últimamente.
* Adverbios de duda o dubitativos: quizá(s), acaso, probablemente, posiblemente, seguramente, tal vez, puede, puede ser, a lo mejor.
* Adverbios interrogativos/exclamativos y relativos: las formas usadas ortográficamente en oraciones interrogativas y exclamativas son *cuándo*, *cómo*, *cuánto*y *dónde* (las formas relativas son idénticas aunque se escriben sin tilde).
* Otros adverbios: solo/solamente, aún, inclusive, además, únicamente, incluso; mismamente, propiamente, precisamente, concretamente; viceversa, contrariamente, siquiera, consecuentemente.

**Función.**

El adverbio se caracteriza porque es un elemento dependiente: puede modificar a una oración entera, a un verbo, a un adjetivo, o a otro adverbio.

* **Complemento Circunstancial de un Verbo,** dentro de un **predicado nominal o verba**l(CC). Ej:
  + *Los alumnos* ***llegaron tarde a clase****.*
  + *Mi padre* ***estuvo ayer enfermo.***
* **Modificador Directo de un Adjetivo**, en un **sintagma adjetival**. (MD).Ej:
  + *Estaban* ***bastante cansados de jugar.***
* **Modificador Directo de otro Adverbio**, en un **sintagma adverbial** (MD). Ej:
  + *Jugaron* ***aceptablemente bien.***
* **Modificador de una Oración (Proposición)**. Ej:
  + ***Afortunadamente, no ha pasado nada*.**
  + *Me dijo ayer* ***que quizá hoy no vendría.***

A continuación otros ejemplos:

* Lo *dejamos***aquí** (*aquí* modifica el verbo *dejamos*, indicando lugar)
* Yo *trabajé***ayer** (*ayer* modifica el verbo *trabajé*, indicando tiempo)
* Tú *cometes errores***frecuentemente** (*frecuentemente* modifica la frase verbal *cometes errores*, indicando modo)
* **Indudablemente** él lo *hizo* (*indudablemente* modifica el verbo *hizo*, indicando certeza)

Los adverbios también se usan como modificadores de adjetivos, y de otros adverbios, generalmente para indicar grado. Ejemplos:

* Esta paella está **muy** *sabrosa* (el adverbio *muy* modifica al adjetivo *sabrosa*)
* Mi casa está **bastante** *lejos* (el adverbio *bastante* modifica otro adverbio – *lejos*)

References:

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<https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adverbio>.

## **ENGLISH: SYNTACTIC FUNCTION OF THE ADVERB**

Adverbs are traditionally defined as “words that describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.” Adverb phrases are defined as phrases that consist of an adverb plus any modifiers such as another adverb. Adverb phrases including adverbs perform eight main grammatical functions within sentences in the English language. The eight functions of adverbs and adverb phrases are: Adverb phrase head, Adjective phrase modifier, Adverb phrase modifier, Verb phrase modifier, Prepositional phrase modifier, Adjunct adverbial, Disjunct adverbial, Conjunct adverbial.

There are five kinds of adverbs expressing different meaning. The following are some of the common ones.

**Adverb of time**

An adverb of time tells us when something is done or happens. We use it at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. We use it as a form of emphasis when we place it at the beginning. Adverbs of time include **afterwards**, **already**, **always**, **immediately**, **last month**, **now**, **soon**, **then**, and **yesterday**.

#### Examples:

* He collapsed and died **yesterday**.
* His factory was burned down **a few months ago**.
* **Last week**, we were stuck in the lift for an hour.

**Adverb of place**

An adverb of place tells us where something is done or happens. We use it after the verb, object or at the end of a sentence. Adverbs of place include words such as **above**, **below**, **here**, **outside**, **over there**, **there**, **under**, **upstairs**.

#### Examples:

* We can stop **here**for lunch.
* The schoolboy was knocked **over** by a school bus.
* They rushed for their lives when fire broke out in the floor **below**.

**Adverb of manner**

An adverb of manner tells us how something is done or happens. Most adverbs of manner end in –ly such as **badly**, **happily**, **sadly**, **slowly**, **quickly**, and others that include **well**, **hard**, **fast**, etc.

#### Examples:

* The brothers were **badly**injured in the fight.
* They had to act **fast** to save the others floating in the water.
* At the advanced age of 88, she still sang very **well**.

**Adverb of degree**

An adverb of degree tells us the level or extent that something is done or happens. Words of adverb of degree are **almost**, **much**, **nearly**, **quite**, **really**, **so**, **too**, **very**, etc.

#### Examples:

* It was **too**dark for us to find our way out of the cave. (Before adjective)
* The referee had to stop the match when it began to rain **very**heavily. (Before adverb)
* Her daughter is **quite**fat for her age.
* The accident victim **nearly**died from his injuries.
* After all these years, she is still feeling **very** sad about her father’s death.

**Adverb of frequency**

An adverb of frequency tells us how often something is done or happens. Words used as adverbs of frequency include **again**, **almost**, **always**, **ever**, **frequently**, **generally**, **hardly ever**, **nearly**, **nearly always**, **never**, **occasionally**, **often**, **rarely**, **seldom**, **sometimes**, **twice**, **usually**, and **weekly**.

#### Examples:

* They were **almost**fifty when they got married.
* He hardly **ever** says something nice to his wife.
* While overseas, he **frequently**phoned home.
* She is not **nearly**always right although she thinks she is **always**right.
* He complained that she **never**smiled back.
* We only write to each other very **occasionally**.
* Peter **seldom**reads the Bible.
* **Sometimes** he stays late in the office to complete his work.
* Our cat was bitten **twice**by the same dog.
* The man **usually**proposes marriage.

**Adverbs as Adverb Phrase Heads**

The first grammatical function that adverbs perform is the adverb phrase head. An adverb phrase consists of an adverb plus any modifiers. For example, the following italicized adverbs function as *adverb phrase heads*:

* *quickly*
* *quietly*
* *however*
* *unfortunately*
* amazingly *fast*
* deceptively *well*
* very *loudly*
* rather *insultingly*

**Adverb Phrases as Adjective Phrase Modifiers**

The second grammatical function that adverbs perform is the adjective phrase modifier. An adjective phrase modifier is a word or phrase that that modifies or describes an adjective or adjective phrase. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as *adjective phrase modifiers*:

* The *boldly* brave toddler climbed onto the table.
* Your newborn baby daughter is *very* tiny.
* Students who are *clearly* sick may not attend class.
* *Habitually* absent employees will be fired.

**Adverb Phrases as Adverb Phrase Modifiers**

The third grammatical function that adverbs perform is the adverb phrase modifier. An adverb phrase modifier is a word or phrase that modifies or describes an adverb or adverb phrase. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as *adverb phrase modifiers*:

* The music from next door is blaring *extremely* loudly.
* Olympic runners can sprint *very* quickly.
* Your *suspiciously* mysteriously strange behavior tipped off the police.
* My use of adverbs is *almost* always perfect.

**Adverb Phrases as Verb Phrase Modifiers**

The fourth grammatical function that adverbs perform is the verb phrase modifier. A verb phrase modifiers is word or phrase that modifies or describes a verb or verb phrase. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as *verb phrase modifiers*:

* My pets wake *promptly* at sunrise.
* She would *not* testify against her attacker.
* Residents must *quickly and quietly* exit the building during the fire drill.
* Her husband *almost always* forgets to take out the trash.

**Adverb Phrases as Prepositional Phrase Modifiers**

The fifth grammatical function that adverbs perform is the prepositional phrase modifier. A prepositional phrase modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that modifies or describes a prepositional phrase. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as prepositional phrase modifiers:

* You seem rather under the weather.
* Your drawing looks very much like a dog.
* His directions are not very much like the original.
* That painting is not unlike one I saw in New York.

**Adverb Phrases as Adjunct Adverbials**

The sixth grammatical function that adverbs perform is the adjunct adverbial. An adjunct adverbial is a word, phrase, or clause that modifies or describes an entire clause by providing additional information about time, place, manner, condition, purpose, reason, result, and concession. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as adjunct adverbials:

* *Stubbornly*, the little girl refused to eat her vegetables at dinner.
* *Eagerly*, my baby brother told me what he wanted for Christmas.
* James answered my call *immediately*.
* *Quietly*, the thief snuck into the vacant building.

**Adverb Phrases as Disjunct Adverbials**

The seventh grammatical function that adverbs perform is the disjunct adverbial. A disjunct adverbial is word or phrase that provides additional information to frame an entire clause. A disjunct adverbial denotes the attitude of the speaker toward or judgment of the proposition such as truthfulness of manner of speaking. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as disjunct adverbials:

* *Truthfully*, adverbs are not one of my favorite grammatical forms.
* *Surprisingly*, none of the children failed the test.
* *Honestly*, I have no idea.
* *Clearly*, the mail did not come today due to it being a national holiday.

**Adverb Phrases as Conjunct Adverbials**

The eighth grammatical function that adverbs perform is the conjunct adverbial. A conjunct adverbial is a word or phrase that expresses a textual relationship. A conjunct adverbial serves to link two or more clauses. For example, the following italicized adverbs and adverb phrases function as conjunct adverbials:

* *First*, wash your hands.
* Noun phrases and prepositional phrases, *however*, can also function as adverbials.
* Do you like to write about grammar *too*?
* *Nevertheless*, students must turn in all assignments before the next class.

The eight functions of adverbs and adverb phrases are adverb phrase head, adjective phrase modifier, adverb phrase modifier, verb phrase modifier, prepositional phrase modifier, adjunct adverbial, disjunct adverbial, and conjunct adverbial.

References:

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