

Adverbs and Adverbials

Narrative Poetry



Just then, the highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door



ADVERBS

An **adverb** is a word used to modify (tell us more about) a verb OR an adjective OR (occasionally) a whole clause:

*He **soon** began to ride **faster**.*

soon modifies the verb 'began'
faster modifies the verb 'ride'

*The **really** purple moor was misty.*

really modifies the adjective 'purple'

***Sadly**, someone had been listening.*

sadly modifies the whole clause





ADVERBIAL

An **adverbial** is a word, phrase or clause which acts as an adverb and is used to modify a verb or (less commonly) an adjective.

Adverbials can be...

without

over

inside

in

under

outside

beside

Prepositional phrases

These are phrases which start with a preposition

They can be used to modify a verb.

in the darkness modifies the verb 'waited'.

*The girl waited, **in the darkness**, and then looked **out of the window**.*

What does **out of the window** modify?



ADVERBIAL

An **adverbial** is a word, phrase or clause which acts as an adverb and is used to modify a verb or (less commonly) an adjective.

Adverbials can be...

Noun phrases

These are expanded noun phrases which are used to modify the verb.

*King George's men
marched **that night**.*

that night modifies
the verb 'marched'.

***Muskets ready**, the soldiers
waited **quietly**.*

Muskets ready modifies the verb 'waited'.
quietly also modifies the verb 'waited'.

ADVERBIALS – Tell us more about time, place or manner

– Which of these adverbials answers the questions *When? Where? How?*



Where? The highwayman rode **through the gate.**

How? The highwayman rode **hard.**

When? The highwayman rode **at midnight.**

When? The highwayman rode **that evening.**

How? The highwayman rode **without looking back.**

Where? The highwayman rode **along the path.**



ADVERBIALS – Tell us more about time, place or manner

- Try adding adverbials for time, place or manner to this sentence.
- Try putting them in different places. How does the impact change?



The highwayman rode **at midnight**.

At midnight, the highwayman rode.



Bess twisted her hands.

With frustration, Bess twisted her hands **against the knots**.

Over the bed, Bess twisted her hands **in fear**.

with frustration **over the bed** **before long**

in fear **later that day** **against the knots**

When adverbials appear at the beginning we call them **fronted adverbials**.

Fronted adverbials are separated from the main clause by a comma.

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