Adverb Formation

CEFR C1 · Placement for emphasis, scope and register
WS1 Position & Scope · WS2 Focus, Emphasis & Inversion · WS3 Connotation & Register · WS4 Critical Analysis & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Position & Scope

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: C1 (CEFR)

Reference: Where an Adverb Sits Changes What It Means

Adverb **position** controls **scope** — what the adverb applies to. Compare *Only I saw her* (nobody else) with *I only saw her* (didn't speak to her) and *I saw only her* (no one else). Sentence adverbs at the front comment on the whole clause; mid-position adverbs often modify the verb; end-position gives manner or emphasis.

Position	Typical scope	Example
Front	whole sentence / topic link	**Frankly**, it won't work.
Mid (before main verb)	verb / frequency / degree	She **completely** forgot.
End	manner / place / time	He explained it **clearly**.
Next to focus word	restricts that word	**Only** she knew.

Part A – Explain the Scope Difference

1. a) Only she asked me to leave. b) She asked only me to leave. _____
2. a) I nearly lost all my money. b) I lost nearly all my money. _____
3. a) Naturally, she reacted. b) She reacted naturally. _____

Part B – Reposition for the Meaning Given

1. Place "even" to stress an unexpected person: (___) the manager apologised. _____
2. Place "just" to mean "a moment ago": She (___) left. _____
3. Place "really" to modify the adjective, not the verb: It was (___) good. _____

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Focus, Emphasis & Inversion

Name: _____ *Date:* _____ *Level: C1 (CEFR)*

Reference: Fronting Adverbs for Effect

Fronting a **negative or restrictive adverb** triggers **subject–auxiliary inversion** and adds emphasis or formality: *Never have I seen…*; *Rarely does he complain*; *Only then did she understand*; *Not only… but also…*. This is a hallmark of advanced, often literary or rhetorical, style.

Fronted adverb	Inversion	Example
Never / Rarely / Seldom	aux + subject	**Never** have I felt so sure.
Only then / Not until	aux + subject	**Only then** did we realise.
Hardly / No sooner	aux + subject	**Hardly** had we sat down when…
Not only … but also	aux + subject	**Not only** did he win, but he broke the record.

Part A – Rewrite with Fronting + Inversion

1. I have never seen such chaos. → _____
2. She rarely makes mistakes. → _____
3. We understood the truth only then. → _____
4. He had hardly arrived when the phone rang. → _____

Part B – Correct the Inversion

#	Wrong sentence	Correction
1	Never I have been so tired.	
2	Not only he sings, but he dances.	
3	Rarely she is late.	
4	No sooner we arrived than it rained.	

Part C – Judge the Effect

Say what the inverted version adds compared with the plain version.

1. "Seldom do we see such talent." vs "We seldom see such talent." _____
2. "Only after the meeting did it become clear." vs "It became clear only after the meeting." _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 3: Connotation & Register

Name: _____ *Date:* _____ *Level: C1 (CEFR)*

Reference: Choosing the Right Intensifier

Degree and comment adverbs carry register and connotation. *Utterly, wholly, markedly* are formal; *totally, dead, super, way* are informal; *rather, somewhat, fairly* hedge; *remarkably, strikingly* add evaluation. Some intensifiers collocate narrowly (*bitterly disappointed, highly unlikely, deeply concerned*). Advanced control means matching intensifier to register and collocate.

Register / function	Adverbs	Collocation examples
Formal intensifier	utterly, wholly, markedly	utterly convinced
Informal intensifier	totally, super, way, dead	way too expensive
Hedging	somewhat, fairly, rather	somewhat surprising
Fixed collocation	bitterly, highly, deeply	bitterly cold, highly likely, deeply moved

Part A – Supply the Collocating Adverb

1. She was _____ disappointed by the result. (intensifier for disappointed)
2. It is _____ unlikely that he'll agree. (intensifier for unlikely)
3. We are _____ concerned about the delay. (intensifier for concerned)
4. The winters here are _____ cold. (intensifier for cold)

Part B – Match the Register

Replace the informal intensifier with a formal one (and vice versa where asked).

1. (formal) The report is way too long. → _____
2. (formal) I'm totally sure. → _____
3. (informal) It was markedly better. → _____

Part C – Hedge or Intensify?

Rewrite the flat statement once to hedge it and once to intensify it.

1. The findings are surprising. → hedge: _____ / intensify: _____

Score: ____ / 25

Worksheet 4: Critical Analysis & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: C1 (CEFR)

Part A – Critical Reading

Adverbs are the quiet governors of tone. Place one carelessly and the emphasis lands where you never intended; choose one too strong and the prose protests too much. Rarely does a single word do as much work as only, which can, depending on where it sits, restrict a subject, a verb, or an object. Frankly, the best writers use intensifiers sparingly — utterly, absolutely, incredibly — knowing that a sentence which is emphatic everywhere is emphatic nowhere. Interestingly, the adverb that persuades most is often the one you barely notice.

1. Identify each adverb and classify it (manner, degree, comment/viewpoint, connecting, focusing).
2. "Rarely does a single word…" uses fronting + inversion. Rewrite without inversion and comment on what is lost.
3. The passage warns against over-intensifying. Explain "emphatic everywhere is emphatic nowhere" in terms of degree adverbs.
4. Analyse how the placement of "only" can change scope, with your own three-way example.

Part B – Extended Analytical Writing

Write a formal analytical paragraph of 160–200 words on: "Adverb placement is the finest control a writer has over emphasis." You must include and underline: (1) one **fronted adverb with inversion**; (2) one **focusing adverb** (only/even/just) placed for a specific scope; (3) one **comment/viewpoint adverb**; (4) one **register-marked intensifier** in a correct collocation; (5) two **epistemic hedges** calibrated to claim strength.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Features: _____ / 5 Word count: _____ Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — C1 Level, Adverb Formation

Worksheet 1 – Part A (model)

1 a) she was the only person who asked me; b) I was the only person she asked. · 2 a) I almost lost everything (but didn't); b) I lost almost all of it (most is gone). · 3 a) comment — of course she reacted; b) manner — she reacted in a natural way.

Worksheet 1 – Part B (model)

1 Even the manager apologised. · 2 She just left. · 3 It was really good (really before the adjective).

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 Never have I seen such chaos. · 2 Rarely does she make mistakes. · 3 Only then did we understand the truth. · 4 Hardly had he arrived when the phone rang.

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 Never have I been so tired. · 2 Not only does he sing, but he (also) dances. · 3 Rarely is she late. · 4 No sooner had we arrived than it rained.

Worksheet 2 – Part C (model)

1 The inversion adds emphasis and a formal/literary tone; the plain version is neutral. · 2 Fronting "only after the meeting" + inversion foregrounds the condition dramatically; the end-position version is matter-of-fact.

Worksheet 3 – Part A (model)

1 bitterly · 2 highly · 3 deeply · 4 bitterly

Worksheet 3 – Part B (model)

1 The report is excessively/far too long. · 2 I'm utterly/entirely certain. · 3 It was way/loads better.

Worksheet 3 – Part C (model)

hedge: The findings are somewhat/rather surprising. · intensify: The findings are remarkably/strikingly surprising.

Worksheet 4 – Part A (model)

1 carelessly (manner), only (focusing), Rarely (degree/frequency, fronted), Frankly/Interestingly (comment), utterly/absolutely/incredibly (degree), barely (degree/focusing). · 2 "A single word rarely does as much work as only" — the non-inverted version is flatter, losing the emphatic, rhetorical foregrounding the fronting creates. · 3 If every clause is maximally intensified, the reader has no contrast to register, so intensifiers lose force; used sparingly, a single "utterly" stands out — diminishing returns on degree marking. · 4 e.g. "Only Sam emailed the client" (no one else) / "Sam only emailed the client" (didn't call) / "Sam emailed only the client" (no one else received it) — placement shifts which constituent is restricted.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Fronting + inversion	Correct and apt	0–5

Focusing adverb scope	Placed for a specific meaning	0–5
Comment/viewpoint adverb	Correct, well placed	0–5
Register-marked intensifier	Correct collocation and register	0–5
Argument & length	160–200 words; developed with hedges	0–5