today

content

▶ semantics of adverbs
▶ morphology of adverbs
  ▶ derivational vs inflectional
  ▶ flat adverbs

reminder

▶ no class tomorrow
▶ hw5 due tomorrow night 23:59
▶ hw6 available tomorrow, due Friday
Adverbs modify verbs and sentences, adding information about events and states including:

- possibility
- attitude
- time
- aspect
- frequency
- manner
- place
- focus
semantics of adverbs

possibility
Information about the likelihood of an event’s truth value.
- They will definitely finish the broccoli.
- Sam has undoubtedly left.

attitude
Conveys the speaker’s attitude towards the proposition expressed by the sentence.
- Conveniently, we heard the alarm.
- Regretfully, she’s better at chess than me.
semantics of adverbs
Adv can convey semantic tense and aspect

time
Answers the question when?
  ▶ Tomorrow we leave for Paris!
  ▶ Y’all should leave now.

aspect
Duration, completion, habitual action.
  ▶ Kim continually crashes the ship.
  ▶ Dana has not done so yet.
semantics of adverbs

frequency
Answers the question how often?

- That DVD is occasionally checked out.
- I rarely get my way.

manner
Answers the question how?

- They cut the cake swiftly.
- Walk softly and carry a big stick.
semantics of adverbs

place
Location or direction; answers the question where?
- The boy pointed here/there/everywhere.
- They all moved westward.

focus
The element indicated is semantically highlighted.
- Even Chris came to the party.
- Kim came, too.
- I would only come if Chris didn’t.
She drove recklessly.
Thankfully, I didn’t have to go to court.
Lee also when to see the show.
Marnie read the book twice.
I will absolutely sue you.
She walked downstairs.
The baby is still sleeping.
morphology of adverbs

derivational morphology

Adverbs can be created from adjectives by the derivational suffix -ly.

- serious + ly → seriously
- effortless + ly → effortlessly
- proud + ly → proudly
- quiet + ly → quietly
But there are **adjectives** that end in -ly too!

- the friendly boy
- a lovely poem
- the lonely hermit
- some deadly person
- an ugly duckling
- that silly goose
morphology of adverbs

derivational morphology

Other affixes also derive adverbs:

- **-wise**: likewise, lengthwise
- **-ward**: onward, downward
- **-ways**: sideways, crossways
- **-ally, basically, tragically, manically**
  
  NB: phonological condition here (\(-ic\))
morphology of adverbs

flat adverbs
Some adverbs are not morphologically marked by a productive derivational rule.

- You don’t play fair.
- The car drove fast.
- The boy bit the cookie hard.
- The bird flew high/low in the sky.
- The train arrived late/early.
morphology of adverbs

flat adverbs
Note: these same words can be adjectives (adverbs derived by conversion).

- That was a *fair* play.
- The *fast* car sped by.
- The *cookie* was too *hard*.
- The *selling price* was too *high/low* for me.
- We took the *late/early* train.
Adj or Adv?:

Let’s play a quick game. adj
I never saw him run so quick. adv
We need to catch the train early. adv
We need to catch the early train. adj
Hold the bear tight. adv
Make the screw tight. adj
inflectional morphology

Like Adj, adverbs can be inflected for degree of comparison with -er/-est

▶ Cheetahs run fast.
▶ Cheetahs run faster than lions.
▶ Cheetahs run fastest of all the big cats.

Note: use more/most, less/least with -ly adverbs (eg: Cheetahs run more quickly/*quicklier than tigers.)
Contrast this with -ly adjectives which can use -er/-est: Linus is friendlier/uglier than Schroeder.
Adj or Adv?:

That is a **kingly** gift.  
He runs **daily**.  
We should leave **early**.  
That is not a very **likely** scenario.  
He will likely **leave at 6:00**.  
She made a **costly** mistake.  

adj  
adv  
adv  
adj  
adv  
adj