

Word order 2: adverbs with the verb

A

Some adverbs (for example, **always, also, probably**) go with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- ☐ Emily **always drives** to work.
- ☐ We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- ☐ The meeting **will probably be cancelled**.

B

If the verb is one word (**drives/cooked** etc.), the adverb goes *before* the verb:

	adverb	verb	
Emily	always	drives	to work.
I	almost	fell	as I was going down the stairs.

- ☐ I cleaned the house and **also cooked** the dinner. (*not* cooked also)
- ☐ Laura **hardly ever watches** television and **rarely reads** newspapers.
- ☐ 'Shall I give you my address?' 'No, I **already have** it.'

Note that these adverbs (**always/usually/also** etc.) go before **have to** ...:

- ☐ Joe never phones me. I **always have to** phone him. (*not* I have always to phone)

But adverbs go *after* **am/is/are/was/were**:

- ☐ We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry. (*not* also were)
- ☐ You're **always** late. You're **never** on time.
- ☐ The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

C

If the verb is two or more words (for example, **can remember / will be cancelled**), the adverb usually goes *after the first verb* (**can/doesn't/will** etc.):

	verb 1	adverb	verb 2	
I	can	never	remember	her name.
Clare	doesn't	usually	drive	to work.
Are you	Are	definitely	going	away next week?
The meeting	will	probably	be	cancelled.

- ☐ You've **always been** very kind to me.
- ☐ Jack can't cook. He **can't even boil** an egg.
- ☐ **Do you still work** for the same company?
- ☐ The house **was only built** a year ago and it's **already falling** down.

Note that **probably** goes before a negative (**isn't/won't** etc.). So we say:

- ☐ I **probably won't see** you. *or*
I'll **probably not** see you. (*but not* I won't probably)

D

We also use **all** and **both** with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- ☐ We **all felt** ill after the meal. (*not* felt all ill)
- ☐ My parents **are both** teachers.
- ☐ Sarah and Jane **have both applied** for the job.
- ☐ My friends **are all going** out tonight.

E

Sometimes we use **is/will/did** etc. instead of repeating part of a sentence (see Unit 51):

- ☐ Tom says he isn't clever, but I think he **is**. (= he **is clever**)

When we do this, we put **always/never** etc. *before* the verb:

- ☐ He always says he won't be late, but he **always is**. (= he **is always** late)
- ☐ I've never done it and I **never will**. (= I **will never** do it)

Exercises

110.1 Is the word order OK or not? Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Helen drives always to work. Helen always drives to work.
- 2 I cleaned the house and also cooked the dinner. OK
- 3 I have usually a shower in the morning.
- 4 I'm usually hungry when I get home from work.
- 5 Steve gets hardly ever angry.
- 6 I called him and I sent also an email.
- 7 You don't listen! I have always to repeat things.
- 8 I never have worked in a factory.
- 9 I never have enough time. I'm always busy.
- 10 When I arrived, my friends already were there.

110.2 Rewrite the sentences to include the word in brackets.

- 1 Clare doesn't drive to work. (usually) Clare doesn't usually drive to work.
- 2 Katherine is very generous. (always)
- 3 I don't have to work on Sundays. (usually)
- 4 Do you watch TV in the evenings? (always)
- 5 Martin is learning Spanish, and he is learning Japanese. (also)
Martin is learning Spanish and he
- 6 a We were on holiday in Spain. (all)
- b We were staying at the same hotel. (all)
- c We had a great time. (all)
- 7 a The new hotel is expensive. (probably)
- b It costs a lot to stay there. (probably)
- 8 a I can help you. (probably)
- b I can't help you. (probably)

110.3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in brackets in the correct order.

- 1 What's her name again? I can never remember (remember / I / never / can) it.
- 2 Our cat (usually / sleeps) under the bed.
- 3 There are plenty of hotels here. (usually / it / easy / is)
to find a place to stay.
- 4 Mark and Amy (both / were / born) in Manchester.
- 5 Lisa is a good pianist. (sing / she / also / can) very well.
- 6 How do you go to work? (usually / you / do / go) by bus?
- 7 I see them every day, but (never / I / have / spoken) to them.
- 8 We haven't moved. (we / still / are / living) in the same place.
- 9 This shop is always busy. (have / you / always / to wait)
a long time to be served.
- 10 This could be the last time I see you. (meet / never / we / might)
again.
- 11 Thanks for the invitation, but (probably / I / be / won't)
able to come to the party.
- 12 I'm going out for an hour. (still / be / you / will) here when
I get back?
- 13 Helen goes away a lot. (is / hardly ever / she) at home.
- 14 If we hadn't taken the same train,
(never / met / we / would / have) each other.
- 15 The journey took a long time today. (doesn't / take / it / always)
so long.
- 16 (all / were / we) tired, so (all / we / fell) asleep.
- 17 Tanya (says / always) that she'll phone me, but
..... (does / she / never).