

# Ancient Languages First Aid

## ADVERBS



### SECTION 2. ADVERBS

Adverbs are words which add meaning to verbs, adjectives and other adverbs – but *not* to nouns!

Examples:

- The priestess approached the altar *slowly*.
- The priestess is a *very* calm celebrant.
- The priestess speaks *too* slowly for some people – they fall asleep during prayers!

In the first example, the adverb “slowly” adds meaning to the verb “approached”. “Slowly” describes *how* she approached the altar.

In the second example, the adverb “very” adds meaning to the adjective “calm”. “Very” describes *how calm* the priestess is as a celebrant.

In the third example, the adverb “too” adds meaning to the adverb “slowly”. “Too” describes *how slowly* the priestess speaks.

### SECTION 2.1. TYPES OF ADVERBS: TIME, MANNER AND PLACE

The function of an adverb is to tell us *how*, *when* and *where* something happens. In this way, they are often called adverbs of *time*, *manner* and *place*.

Examples:

Adverbs of “manner” tell us *how* something is done:

- The priestess approached the altar *slowly*.

Adverbs of “time” tell us *when* something is done:

- The priestess will lead prayers *today*.

Adverbs of “place” tell us *where* something is done:

- The priestess walked *here* from the temple.

## **SECTION 2.2. TYPES OF ADVERBS: INTERROGATIVE, NEGATIVE/MODAL, NUMERICAL AND DEGREE**

Adverbs also have the following common functions:

*Interrogative* adverbs *ask questions*:

- *How* was the priestess after her long journey?
- *Where* did the priestess come from?

*Negative* or *modal* adverbs serve to make sentences *negative*:

- The priestess did *not* appear tired after her journey.

Words such as “yes”, “probably” and “perhaps” are all adverbs. They agree or express doubt.

*Numerical* adverbs tell us *how often* something took place:

- The priestess has already conducted prayers *twice* today.

Adverbs of *degree* serve to tell us *to what extent* something happens; for example: “almost”, “hardly”, “enough” and “extremely”. They also tell us *how* something happens, so they may also be considered adverbs of *manner*, too.

## **SECTION 2.3 ADVERBS AND DEGREES OF COMPARISON**

Adverbs have three *degrees of comparison*, like adjectives: *positive*, *comparative* and *superlative*. Some adverbs look like adjectives in their positive, comparative and superlative forms. You will be able to detect them as adverbs, however, because they add meaning to verbs, adjectives and other adverbs – not to nouns!

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
prayed loudly	prayed more loudly	prayed most loudly
prayed hard	prayed harder	prayed hardest
prayed long	prayed longer	prayed longest

There are a few adverbs that form their degrees of comparison in an *irregular* way:

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
well	better	best
much	more	most
badly	worse	worst