

# Adverbs for commenting

## Introduction



"**Presumably**, you've tried looking in this folder."

"Yes, **generally**, that's where I'd expect to find it but it isn't there."

## Definition

These adverbs are used to make a comment or judgement on something or to indicate which viewpoint we are speaking from.

## Construction

Commenting and viewpoint adverbs are often placed at the beginning of a sentence or clause, followed by a comma, because they relate to the entire sentence or clause:

**Honestly**, I think it's a bad idea. [The speaker is giving you an honest opinion.]  
She deals with people **honestly**. ['in an honest way' - an adverb of manner]

**Amazingly**, he did well in his exam. [I'm amazed about his exam result.]  
He did **amazingly well** in his exam. [an intensifier meaning 'extremely well']

They can, however, be placed in the middle or at the end.

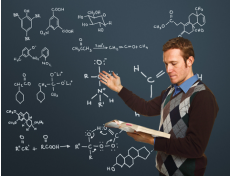
**Clearly**, she's the best person for the job.  
She's **clearly** the best person for the job.  
She's the best person for the job, **clearly**.

Because word order depends on the type and meaning of the adverb, if in doubt, refer to a good dictionary for example sentences.

## Uses

Use	Examples
To express a view on how likely something is	<p><b>Apparently</b>, Alex is considering applying for a job in Japan. [This appears to be the case for the speaker but he isn't sure.]</p> <p><b>Undoubtedly</b>, it would be a great opportunity for him.</p> <p><b>Surely</b>, he'll accept it if it's offered to him, won't he?</p> <p>Other examples: certainly, clearly, definitely, obviously, probably</p>
To show our attitude or opinion	<p><b>Amazingly</b>, he turned the offer down! [The speaker is amazed.]</p> <p><b>Frankly</b>, I think he's mad.</p> <p><b>Seriously</b>, though, I think he'll regret it.</p> <p>Other examples: curiously, hopefully, interestingly, luckily, naturally, sadly, strangely, surprisingly, unbelievably</p>
To make a judgement of what someone does	<p><b>Foolishly</b>, he didn't appreciate all the potential benefits. [The speaker thinks Alex is foolish.]</p> <p>His boss <b>generously</b> gave him some more time to think it over.</p> <p><b>Wisely</b>, Alex has agreed to reconsider.</p> <p>Other examples: bravely, carelessly, kindly, rightly, stupidly, wrongly</p>
To indicate the viewpoint from which we are speaking - identifying which aspect of something we're talking about	<p>Although it made the company more well-known, <b>financially</b>, it was a disaster.</p> <p>He's up to the job <b>physically</b> but not <b>mentally</b>.</p> <p><b>Politically</b>, the country is more stable now but crime remains a problem.</p> <p>Other examples: emotionally, environmentally, logically, medically, morally, spiritually, technically, visually</p>

## Examples



**Obviously**, I don't expect you to remember *all* of this for tomorrow's test.



**Hopefully**, it will stop raining soon.



**Stupidly**, I agreed to work late tonight - what was I thinking?!



**Visually**, we decided this was the best spot but **environmentally**, we could face opposition.

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