

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.

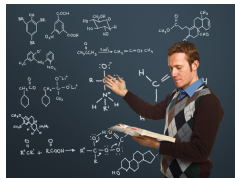
Clearly, she's the best person for the job.
She's **clearly** the best person for the job.
She's the best person for the job, **clearly**.

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

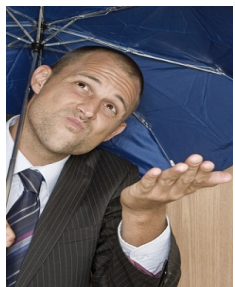
Uses

Use	Examples
To express a view on how likely something is	<p>Apparently, 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>Undoubtedly, it would be a great opportunity for him.</p> <p>Surely, 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>Amazingly, he turned the offer down! [The speaker is amazed.]</p> <p>Frankly, I think he's mad.</p> <p>Seriously, 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>Foolishly, he didn't appreciate all the potential benefits. [The speaker thinks Alex is foolish.]</p> <p>His boss generously gave him some more time to think it over.</p> <p>Wisely, 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, financially, it was a disaster.</p> <p>He's up to the job physically but not mentally.</p> <p>Politically, 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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