

# Adverbs of place



Our daughters live **nearby** but they're **abroad** at the moment.

## Definition

Adverbs of place tell us about movement and location.

## Construction

The word order can vary but these are the most usual:

Construction	Examples
After the main verb	He went <b>out</b> . They're running <b>away</b> . I don't like walking <b>uphill</b> .
After the object	Is it <b>far</b> ? We put the rubbish <b>outside</b> . I can't find my keys <b>anywhere</b> .

**Note that** 'here' and 'there' can also be placed at the beginning of a sentence for emphasis. For example:

**Here** comes Liz. ['here' + verb + noun]

**Here** she comes. ['here' + pronoun + verb]

**There** goes my last €10!

**There** it goes!

# Uses

We use them with verbs to answer the question, 'Where?'

Use	Examples
To indicate location	The canteen is <b>downstairs</b> . We live <b>here</b> in the summer. I'm staying <b>indoors</b> today.
To indicate movement	It's too cold to go <b>out</b> . I put it <b>there</b> but now I can't find it. Let's go <b>through</b> now.

Some adverbs can indicate both location and movement. For example:

He's **out** at the moment.  
He **went out** five minutes ago.

# Examples

**Note that** this is not a complete list.

Adverb	Meaning	Examples
here there	Near To or at a distance	Come <b>here</b> . Put it <b>there</b> .
backward(s) forward(s) upward(s) downward(s) inward(s) outwards northwards southwards	In a specific direction <b>[Note that 'towards' is a preposition, not an adverb, and therefore requires a noun, e.g. He walked towards me.]</b>	It's easier to walk <b>forwards</b> than <b>backwards</b> . The crowd moved <b>forwards</b> . They were tired but continued <b>upwards</b> . The garden goes <b>downwards</b> . The chairs are in a circle so everyone faces <b>inwards</b> . This door opens <b>outwards</b> . Drive <b>northwards</b> for 50km, then turn left in the village and head <b>southwards</b> for 3 km.

anywhere somewhere everywhere nowhere elsewhere	To or in a non-specific location	Let's have dinner <b>somewhere</b> special tonight. I looked <b>everywhere</b> for Frances but couldn't find her <b>anywhere</b> . We have <b>nowhere</b> to put the new cabinet. The room was booked so we had to go <b>elsewhere</b> .
away	To or at a distance from somewhere	The film was so scary, I had to look <b>away</b> ! My husband's <b>away</b> this weekend. She walked/ran/drove <b>away</b> .
in out	Can mean 'here' or 'not here'	He's <b>out</b> at the moment - can I take a message? He'll be <b>in</b> this afternoon.
indoors outdoors	Into or inside a building Into or in the open air	It rained so we stayed <b>indoors</b> . The children went <b>outdoors</b> to play.
upstairs downstairs	To or on a higher floor To or on a lower floor	Martin's office is <b>upstairs</b> . They walked <b>downstairs</b> .
uphill downhill	Towards the top of a hill Towards the bottom of a hill	Going <b>uphill</b> is hard work but I love cycling <b>downhill</b> .
ahead	Further forward	Walk <b>ahead</b> until you reach the traffic lights.
nearby	Not far from a place	Is there a good restaurant <b>nearby</b> ?
abroad	To or in another country	He often travels <b>abroad</b> on business.
north south east west	To or towards the north, south east, west	This train goes <b>north</b> . The weather got warmer as we drove <b>south</b> .
back	In, into or towards a previous place or position	Can you bring <b>back</b> the file that you took? I'm just going to the post office - I'll be <b>back</b> soon.

left  
right

On or to the  
left/right

At the roundabout, turn **left** and then bear  
**right**.  
Keep **left** as you walk down the escalator.

## 'Here' and 'there'

We can use 'here' and 'there' with a preposition when we don't need to mention a specific place because it is obvious or we indicate the place with a gesture. For example:

The file is over **there**. [the speaker points to a place]

I put it under **here**. [under this desk, table, bed etc.]

Look up **there** - is it a plane? [the speaker indicates a part of the sky by a look or gesture]

## Adjectives

Some adverbs of place can also be adjectives. For example:

We have a downstairs bathroom.

There are lots of places to visit in the nearby towns.

## Prepositions

Some adverbs of place are also prepositions of place. The difference is that adverbs are used alone and prepositions require a noun. For example:

We can't smoke **inside**. [adverb]

We can't smoke inside the building. [preposition]

They looked up. [adverb]

They looked up the road. [preposition]

If you are not sure how to use them in a sentence, look at examples in a good dictionary.

See also [prepositions of place](#).



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