

# 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> .<br>They're running <b>away</b> .<br>I don't like walking <b>uphill</b> .       |
| After the object    | Is it <b>far</b> ?<br>We put the rubbish <b>outside</b> .<br>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 Â€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> .<br>We live <b>here</b> in the summer.<br>I'm staying <b>indoors</b> today.      |
| To indicate movement | It's too cold to go <b>out</b> .<br>I put it <b>there</b> but now I can't find it.<br>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<br>there  | Near<br>To or at a distance   | Come <b>here</b> .<br>Put it <b>there</b> .  |
| backward(s)<br>forward(s)<br>upward(s)<br>downward(s)<br>inward(s)<br>outwards<br>northwards<br>southwards | In a specific direction<br><b>[Note that 'towards' is a preposition, not an adverb, and therefore requires a noun, e.g. He walked towards <u>me</u>.]</b> | It's easier to walk <b>forwards</b> than <b>backwards</b> .<br>The crowd moved <b>forwards</b> .<br>They were tired but continued <b>upwards</b> .<br>The garden goes <b>downwards</b> .<br>The chairs are in a circle so everyone faces <b>inwards</b> .<br>This door opens <b>outwards</b> .<br>Drive <b>northwards</b> for 50km, then turn left in the village and head <b>southwards</b> for 3 km. |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| anywhere<br>somewhere<br>everywhere<br>nowhere<br>elsewhere | To or in a non-specific location                          | Let's have dinner <b>somewhere</b> special tonight.<br>I looked <b>everywhere</b> for Frances but couldn't find her <b>anywhere</b> .<br>We have <b>nowhere</b> to put the new cabinet.<br>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> !<br>My husband's <b>away</b> this weekend.<br>She walked/ran/drove <b>away</b> .  |
| in<br>out   | Can mean 'here' or 'not here'                             | He's <b>out</b> at the moment - can I take a message?<br>He'll be <b>in</b> this afternoon.   |
| indoors<br>outdoors   | Into or inside a building<br>Into or in the open air      | It rained so we stayed <b>indoors</b> .<br>The children went <b>outdoors</b> to play.   |
| upstairs<br>downstairs                                      | To or on a higher floor<br>To or on a lower floor         | Martin's office is <b>upstairs</b> .<br>They walked <b>downstairs</b> .   |
| uphill<br>downhill  | Towards the top of a hill<br>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<br>south<br>east<br>west                              | To or towards the north, south east, west                 | This train goes <b>north</b> .<br>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?<br>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 speakers 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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