

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 out . They're running away . I don't like walking uphill .
After the object	Is it far ? We put the rubbish outside . I can't find my keys anywhere .

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 downstairs . We live here in the summer. I'm staying indoors today.
To indicate movement	It's too cold to go out . I put it there but now I can't find it. Let's go through 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 here . Put it there .
backward(s) forward(s) upward(s) downward(s) inward(s) outwards northwards southwards	In a specific direction [Note that 'towards' is a preposition, not an adverb, and therefore requires a noun, e.g. He walked towards me .]	It's easier to walk forwards than backwards . The crowd moved forwards . They were tired but continued upwards . The garden goes downwards . The chairs are in a circle so everyone faces inwards . This door opens outwards . Drive northwards for 50km, then turn left in the village and head southwards for 3 km.

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