



Unit 56 – Adverbs of Comment (*I'm definitely going.. Incredibly, she survived..*)

A) To expand upon Unit 55, this lesson will focus on adverbs of comment (certainty, viewpoint & judgement):

Comment Adverbs	Common Examples
indicate how likely we believe something is (certainty):	<i>apparently, clearly, conceivably, definitely, doubtfully, indeed, maybe, obviously, of course, perhaps, possibly, presumably, probably, surely, undoubtedly, (un)likely</i>
indicate our viewpoint of events, actions or people (attitude):	<i>apparently, astonishingly, frankly, honestly, hopefully, incredibly, interestingly, luckily, naturally, obviously, really, sadly, seriously, surprisingly, unbelievably, (un)fortunately</i>
indicate our opinion of actions, including our own (judgement):	<i>bravely, carelessly, foolishly, generously, kindly, rightfully, spitefully, stupidly, (un)fairly wisely, wrongly</i>

Note: -> certain adverbs can be placed in two different categories, depending on the context and emphasis of the speaker. Compare the following differences in meaning or nuance between the following sentences:

- > 'She did **incredibly** well on her driver's test. (*She did extremely well.*)
- > '**Incredibly**, she did very well on her driver's test. (*I was surprised she did so well.*)
- > 'I'm **definitely** going to meet you today.' vs. 'The hotel fitness centre is **definitely** worth visiting.'
- > '**Perhaps**, we'll go for a walk later today.' vs. 'That's **perhaps** the most elegant restaurant in town.'

Comment adverbs are often placed at the front in order to emphasize the entire sentence, although they can be flexibly placed either at the end or before or after the main verb. When placed at the beginning or end of a sentence, the adverb is usually separated by a comma (when writing) or intonation (when speaking):

- > **Apparently**, the company is losing money. or: She participated in the Olympics, **apparently**.
- > **Interestingly**, he is very good at chess. or: He is really good at chess, **interestingly**.

Tip: -> Judgement adverbs often follow the subject, although they can also be placed at the front of a sentence for added emphasis:

- > He **bravely** fought back his tears. or: **Bravely**, he stood up to his critics at the election debate.
- > I **stupidly** forgot my phone at home. **Carelessly**, she left the front door to the house unlocked.

B) Descriptive Adverbs – Certain adverbs clearly describe the features of a *verb* or *adjective* through the definition of the adverb itself. For example:

- > **Technically**, it is the most advanced equipment ever.
- > Raising income tax is considered **politically** dangerous.
- > Farmers must be given incentives to manage their land **organically**.

Also: *artificially, biologically, commercially, environmentally, financially, globally, ideologically, industrially, logically, medically, naturally, outwardly, physically, politically, precisely, technically, visually*

C) The above adverbs can also be communicated in a different form using a number of expressions. For example:

- > **Visually / In visual terms**, this new television series is even better than the original.
- > None of the projects proved **financially viable** or: **viable, in terms of finances**.
- > **Concerning the environment**, this project may be viewed critically by local NGO's.

Also: *from an environmental point of view, from a medical standpoint, as far as global trade is concerned, in regards to politics, with respect to biologics, regarding / concerning finances, etc.*

Some adverbs or phrases can be used to indicate whose viewpoints/opinions are being expressed:

- > **Personally** (speaking), I found the book more captivating than the movie.
- > **If you asked me / him / her**, having a pet is more than worth it.
- > **From my / his / their / our perspective**, the investment will be a positive one in the long term.
- > **In my / our view / opinion / standpoint**, her criticisms were completely justified.



Unit 56 – Exercises:

56.1 – Complete each sentence with an **adverb of attitude** from the box. More than one answer is possible. **(56-A)**

naturally / regrettably / foolishly / remarkably / miraculously / amazingly / definitely / wisely / unsurprisingly

1. Mark was totally exhausted from his flight home from Japan. **Naturally** (*As might be expected*), he could hardly stay awake during his own welcome-home party.
2. Something should _____ (*without question*) be done to stop climate change before it's too late.
3. _____ (*Unfortunately*), we'll lose some wonderful teachers to retirement at the end of this school year.
4. Rather than buy a large house right away after getting married, Kara and Kyle _____ (*using good judgement*) decided to rent an apartment for a year while they looked for a more affordable house.
5. Even during a recession, there are people who _____ (*unwisely*) spend money on things like a plasma tv.
6. Jason really changed his study habits this term! He routinely studies in the library after classes. _____ (*As could be expected*), his marks have improved _____ (*in a remarkable manner*) this semester.
7. The Maldives has some of the most _____ (*astoundingly*) clear, blue water you'll find anywhere on earth!
8. _____ (*Incredibly*), nobody was killed when US Airways Flight 1549 landed in the Hudson River in 2009.

56.2 – Complete the conversation between Paul and Jenn using the **comment adverbs** in the following box. **(56-A)**

unfortunately / wrongly / seriously / perhaps / clearly / interestingly enough / honestly / wisely / surely

Jenny – Hey Paul! How have you been doing with your job search?

Paul – **Unfortunately**, I'm starting to get discouraged. Do you think I'll ever get hired?

Jenny – Oh, are you kidding me! You are _____ the best candidate out there!

Paul – Finding a position during a pandemic is _____ difficult. I _____ left my last position too soon.

Jenny – I understand how you feel. Something will _____ come up! You're **clearly** working hard. I see you sending out resumes every day and you're _____ networking with everyone that you know!

Paul – Thanks, Jenny. _____, an old friend just set up an interview with her company this Friday!

Jenny – There you go! _____, you're going to do great, Paul! Best of luck and let me know how it goes!

56.3 – Match the following clauses by writing the most appropriate **descriptive adverb** in the blanks. **(56-B)**

globally / technically / financially / commercially / physically / politically / ideologically

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. That IT company has done well domestically, although _____ | _____ it is defined as a fruit. |
| 2. North and South Korea share the same peninsula, but _____ | _____ she still depends on her parents. |
| 3. People assume that a tomato is a vegetable, however _____ | globally it has struggled to grow its services. |
| 4. He often complains about having knee pain, although _____ | _____ it sells many products each year. |
| 5. Even though Kathy likes to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle _____ | _____ they are very different countries. |
| 6. This company is not known to many people, however _____ | _____ they have very different views. |
| 7. Johnny and his brother get along great together, but _____ | _____ he walks around perfectly fine. |

56.4 – Complete the sentences using the words in the box with the phrases learned in Part C. Note that you may need to change the word form to suit the sentence. **(56-C)**

visual / biology / environment / politics / medical / finance

1. *The Mona Lisa* shows a simple smile outwardly, however the image is iconic **in visual terms**.
2. Although the treatment claims to cure diseases, those claims are unproven _____.
3. Nuclear energy is still controversial, but _____, it's an excellent source of energy.
4. The CEO was forced to cut costs by laying off hundreds of workers, but the decision will benefit the company in the long-term _____.
5. He was a successful businessman, but _____ he wasn't able to convince voters to elect him.
6. People may think that all bacteria are harmful, but _____ bacteria in our gut is very necessary to help people properly digest their food.