

Sentential Adverbials

Adverbs that modify the whole sentence, not just a verb

Reasons for their use:

Using a **sentential adverbial** can

- change the meaning of the sentence

In fact, “bad” means good.

- change the emphasis of the sentence

Frankly (my dear), I don’t give a damn.

- show the author’s attitude about the sentence

Fortunately, it is hot.

Examples:

- Maybe/Perhaps
- Unfortunately
- Yes/No
- Usually
- Honestly
- Hopefully
- In fact
- Of course
- For instance
- Fortunately for you

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Sentence Structure

English word order is subject, verb, object (SVO), because it doesn't always use articles that distinguish subjects from objects.

Sentential adverbs are peripheral to this order. That means they usually go at the beginning or ending of sentences and are separated by a comma:

There is cat hair on her furniture, **for instance**.

Maybe, she likes cats.

Honestly, I don't know.

You could ask her, **of course**.

Yes, I could ask her.

Fortunately for you, she is here.

Conclusion:

The most important thing to remember about sentential adverbials is that they should **NOT** interrupt the connection between the main verb and its direct object!

In German, it is common to do this, so you will have to consciously train yourself out of this habit. For example:

Ich bin montags im Büro.

~~I am on Mondays in the office.~~

I **am in the office** on Mondays.