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ADVERB

An adverb is a word or phrase which is used to modify the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Adverbs are used in a sentence to give us more information about the sentence. They usually express the manner in which something is done. Most of the adverbs end with the common ending – ly. An **adverb** used to modify an adjective or another adverb usually goes before it.

For example :

- The rain poured **heavily** and we took shelter under a tree. (Here the adverb 'heavily' is modifying the verb 'poured'.)
- You should go there as **quickly** as possible. (Here the adverb 'quickly' is modifying the verb 'go'.)
- I had a really great time at the dance party. (Here the adverb 'really' is modifying the adjective 'great'.)

Adverbs are used to carry out many functions in a sentence, such as :

- **How:** He walks **gracefully**.
- **When:** He came here **yesterday**.
- **Where:** Will you come **here**?
- **To what extent:** This dish is **extremely** good.

Adverbs can also be used to change the meaning of the whole sentence. Mostly when adverbs are used at the beginning of a sentence, they tend to change the meaning of the whole sentence, for example :

- **Unfortunately**, no one was present there. (It was unfortunate that no one was present there.)
- **Probably** I am mistaken. (It is probable that I am mistaken.)

Types of Adverbs

There are following types of adverb depending on time, place, frequency and manner :

1. Adverbs of time

Adverbs of time are used in a sentence to answer the question '**WHEN**'.

Some Examples of Adverb of time are **today, yesterday, now, before, daily, already, since, ago, never etc.** For example :

- I met him **yesterday**.
- His father died two years **ago**.
- I have seen him **before**.
- They have **already** come.
- We will have to start **now**.

2. Adverbs of frequency :

Adverbs of frequency are used in a sentence to answer the question 'how often'.

Some Examples of this kind of adverb are: **often, always, once, never, again, seldom, frequently etc.**

- We **seldom** go out on Sundays.
- I have seen him only **once**.
- He called **again** this morning.
- We must **always** try to do our best.

3. Adverbs of place :

In a sentence, Adverbs of place are used to answer the question 'Where'.

Some Examples of Adverbs of place are: **here, there, up, down, everywhere, out, etc.**

- She sat **down**.
- He looked **up**.
- I searched for him **everywhere**.
- Come **in**.

4. Adverbs of manner :

Adverbs of manner answer the question 'how' or 'in what manner'. These kinds of adverbs include nearly all those adverbs which end in **-ly**.

Some Examples of 'adverbs of manner' are: **quickly, carefully, sweetly, clearly, bravely, beautifully, well, fast etc.**

- The soldiers fought **bravely**.
- This essay is **well** written.
- she walked **slowly**.
- The baby slept **soundly**.

5. Adverbs of Condition :

An adverb of condition tells us the condition needed before the main idea comes into effect. (An adverb of the condition often starts with *if* or *unless*. For example:

- If it rains, the party will be ruined.
- I will not talk unless you apologize.

6. Adverbs of Certainty :

We use adverbs of certainty to say **how sure we are of something**. Adverbs of certainty usually go in mid-position.

Examples are: certainly, definitely, clearly, obviously and probably.

- She will probably come.
- The train has obviously been delayed
- She is certainly right.
- There is clearly something wrong.
- He probably thinks that he is the smartest. (NOT He thinks probably that ...)

Rules of Adverb

Rule 1: Adverbs should be placed before or after the word they are modifying. For example :

- I somewhat understand what you are saying (Here the adverb 'Somewhat' modifies the verb 'understand')

In most of the sentences, adverb comes after the verb/adjective/adverb. For example :

- **Incorrect:** He **clearly** speaks.
- **Correct:** He speaks **clearly**.

Rule 2: When there is an object, the **adverb** is usually placed after the *verb + object*. For example :

- **Incorrect:** I put **carefully** the vase on the table.
- **Correct:** I put the vase **carefully** on the table.

Rule 3: However, adverbs are never positioned between the verb and the object. For example :

- **Incorrect:** I read quickly the book.
- **Correct:** I read the book quickly.

Rule 4: Sometimes adverbs are placed at the beginning of a clause. For example :

- Quickly, I changed my opinion.

Rule 5: The adverb **only** should come immediately before the word it modifies. For example :

- **Incorrect:** I only solved two problems.
- **Correct:** I solved only two problems.

- **Incorrect:** John **only** managed to solve the problem.
- **Correct:** **Only John** managed to solve the problem.

- **Incorrect:** Praise them when only they deserve it.
- **Correct:** Praise them only when they deserve it.

Rule 6: **Else** should be followed by **but**, not **than**. For example :

- **Incorrect:** He did nothing else **than** devote time to studying.
- **Correct:** He did nothing else **but** devote time to studying.

Rule 7: Adverbs **never, seldom, nowhere, nothing, hardly, scarcely, barely, rarely, neither** are negative in meaning, So be careful not to use "Double negative" in a sentence. For example :

- **Incorrect:** I **hardly** know **nothing** about this book. (Hardly and nothing both are negative words, so here it is an error of Double negative.)
- **Correct:** I **hardly** know **anything** about this book. (To correct it, use "Anything" in place of 'nothing')

Rule 8: The adverb 'As' is used after words 'Regard, define, describe, treat, view, know'. The adverb 'As' is **not** used after words 'Elect, consider, call, appoint, **choose, name**'. For example :

- **Incorrect:** It is considered as the worst problem of this area
- **Correct:** It is considered the worst problem of this area.

- **Incorrect:** I regard him my family member
- **Correct:** I regard him as my family member

Common Errors of Adverbs :

Sometimes students use adjectives when they should use an adverb, For example:

- **Incorrect:** He behaved very **bad** on the field trip. (To modify or describe the verb 'behaved', an adverb should be used here. Use of adjective 'Bad' is incorrect here.)
- **Correct:** He behaved very **badly** on the field trip.

Good and Well :

Good and well are also confusing words. Most students think that these are same in usage, but this is not true. Good is an adjective which is used to modify Nouns or pronouns (the *good* boy). On the other hand, 'Well' is an adverb which is used to modify a verb (he listens *well*) or an adjective (the well-educated boy).

Hard and Hardly :

Hard and hardly look like similar words but both have entirely different meanings. Hard is an adjective which means 'with a great deal of effort'. Hardly is an adverb which means 'very little' or scarcely.

- I work **hard**.'
- I **hardly** work.'

Observe that these two sentences are entirely different in meaning.

Too and very :

Too has a different meaning from **very**. **Too** is used in the negative sense in a sentence. It means 'more than enough' or 'more than is wanted'. **Very** is used in the positive sense in a sentence. **Very** is used for giving emphasis to something in a sentence.

Incorrect: This student is **too** intelligent.

Correct: This student is very intelligent **very** intelligent.

Enough :

An **adverb** usually comes before the adjective or adverb it is modifying. But adverb **Enough** is an exception to this rule. Enough goes after the adjective or adverb it is modifying.

The adverb enough is used to modify an adjective. In this case, it goes after the adjective it modifies. For example :

- **Incorrect:** She is **enough old** to earn a living
- **Correct:** She is **old enough** to earn a living. (Here the adverb enough modifies the adjective old.)
- **Incorrect:** Is it **enough warm** for you?
- **Correct:** Is it **warm enough** for you?
- **Incorrect:** I am enough good to forgive your mistakes.
- **Correct:** I am good enough to forgive your mistakes.

When **enough** is used as an adjective, it modifies a noun. The adjective enough comes before the noun it is modifying.

- **Incorrect:** I have bought **eggs enough**.
- **Correct:** I have bought **enough eggs**. (Here the adjective enough modifies the noun eggs.)
- **Incorrect:** I didn't get **time enough** to write the test.
- **Correct:** I didn't get **enough time** to write the test.

Some words are used as both 'Adjective' and 'Adverb'. Which are :

Fast :

'He's a **fast** runner.' – Here **fast** is an adjective.

'He runs **fast**.' – Here **fast** is an adverb.

Late :

'It was **late** at night.' – Here **late** is an adjective.

'We talked **late** into the night.' – Here **late** is an adverb.

Now as you know the rules, try to answer the following questions in the comment section. We will review your comments.

1. Come to my office as (**quick / quickly**) as possible.
2. The situation is(**Very/much/very much**) serious.
3. We have not gathered (**near / nearly**) enough flowers.
4. Our team played (**good/well**) last week.
5. Can you be there at 5 o'clock? (**Sharp/sharply**)
6. The ball hit me (**Right/rightly**) on the nose.



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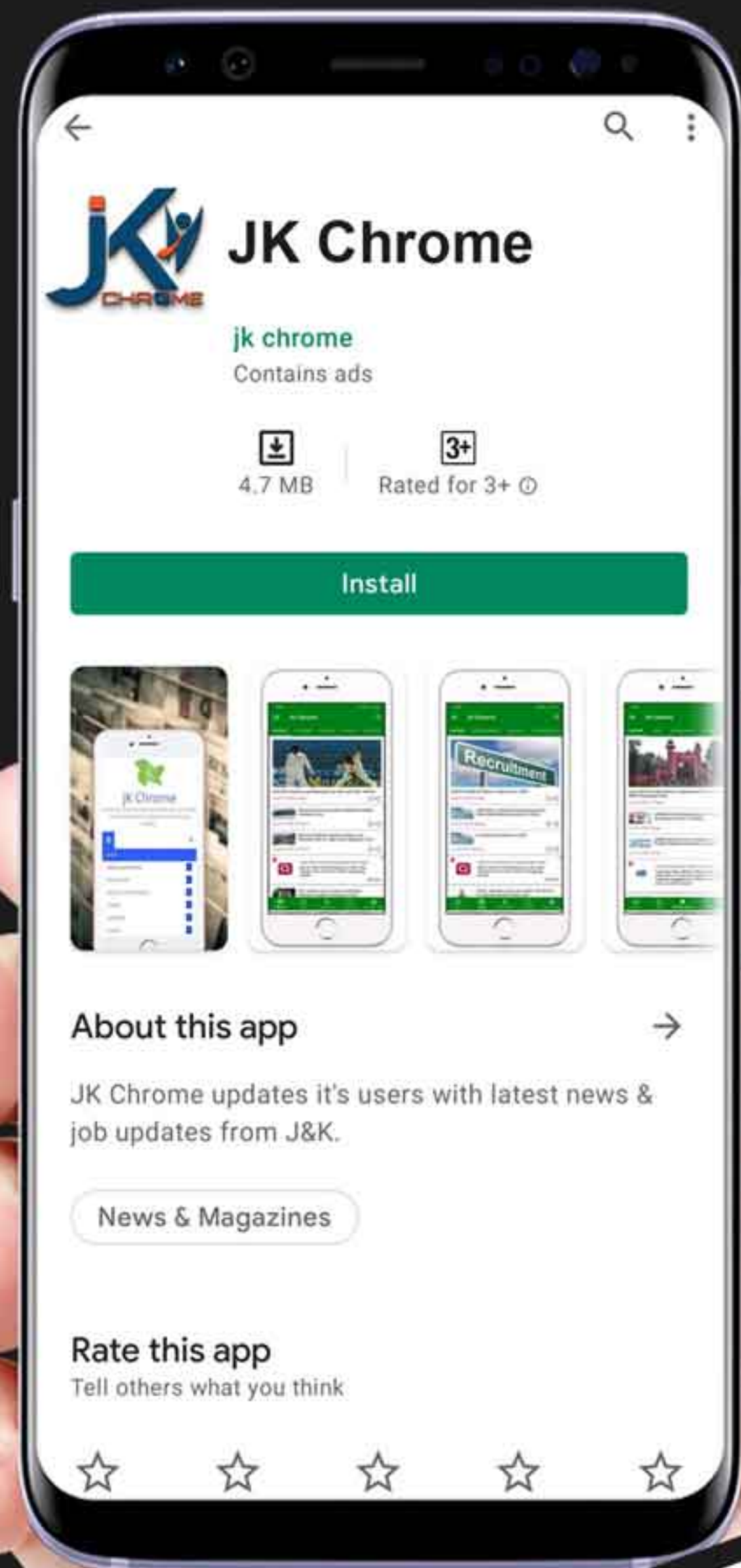
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