

Ed-clauses

Now to that—by our wall—the e was this ruddy great lorry again.
(CONV)

We measured a seasonal total of 56.99 cm precipitation in the two caged rain gauges, compared to 56.78 cm on the open plots. (ACAD)

To-infinitive clauses

She called me to say a lawyer was starting divorce proceedings. (FICT)
T reintroduce us to the joys of story telling round the log fire, Signals rounded up a slightly disconcerting group of five con emporary writers, all strange to me. (NEWS)

Verbless clauses

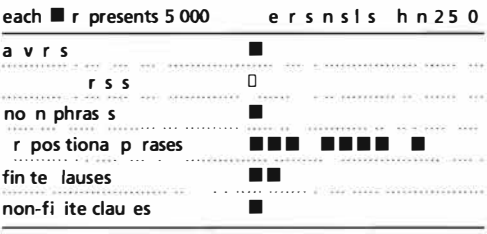
One practice is to designate protons as if less than this. (ACAD)
The author apologizes where appropriate. (ACAD†)

10.1.2.1 Syntactic realizations of the three adverbial classes

CORPUS FINDINGS ^{1,2}

- In terms of overall frequency, prepositional phrases are the most common syntactic realization of adverbials.
- Adverbs are also relatively common as adverbials.
- In comparison, finite clauses, noun phrases and verb phrases are relatively rare.

Table 0.1 Overall frequency distribution of syntactic forms of adverbials



In terms of proportionate use, only circumstance adverbials show a strong preference for prepositional phrases.

- Single adverbs account for about 10% of circumstance adverbials.
- In contrast, stance adverbials show a strong preference for single adverbs.
- About half of stance adverbials are realized by single adverbs.
- Prepositional phrases and finite clauses each account for about 15–20% of stance adverbials.
- Lingering adverbials display the strongest association with a single syntactic form: almost 80% of the lingering adverbials are realized by single adverbs.

DISTRIBUTION OF FININGS

The high frequency of prepositional phrase as adverbials is due to their common use as circumstance adverbials (by far the most common class of adverbials; 10.1.1.1). Prepositional phrases are particularly suited to use as circumstance