Ed-clauses

Now ***added to that*** *—by our wall—there 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)

To reintroduce us to the joys of story telling round the log fire, *Signals rounded up a slightly disconcerting group of five contemporary 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, non-finite clauses, noun phrases, and adverb phrases are relatively rare.

Table 10.1 Overall frequency distribution of syntactic forms of adverbials; occurrences per million words

each ■ represents 5,000 ▯ represents less than 2,500

adverbs	■■■■■■
adverb phrases	▯
noun phrases	■
prepositional phrases	■■■■■■■■■■
finite clauses	■■
non-finite clauses	■

- In terms of proportional use, only circumstance adverbials show a strong preference for prepositional phrases.
  - Single adverbs account for about 20% 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.
- Linking adverbials display the strongest association with a single syntactic form: almost 80% of the linking adverbials are realized by single adverbs.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The high frequency of prepositional phrases 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