



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Adjectives and Adverbs 6 by K S Sandhu

City Shadows

In many British cities, foxes have become part of everyday life. They frequently appear in gardens and parks after dark. Jane, who lives in a quiet London suburb, sees them almost every night.

She rarely feels scared, but she watches them cautiously. "They move stealthily through the shadows," she tells her friend Sam. "They never rush – they wait until the street is empty."

Urban foxes usually search for food in rubbish bins. They can easily tear open plastic bags with their sharp teeth and claws. Sometimes they quickly cut holes in fences to reach gardens. Jane occasionally finds bits of food scattered on her path the next morning. "They leave a mess," she sighs, "but they hardly ever attack people."

One evening, Jane spotted a vixen with three cubs playing boldly in her neighbour's yard. The mother fox stood protectively nearby. "Foxes can be aggressively defensive when protecting their young," Jane remembered from a wildlife article. But in cities, attacks are extremely rare – experts say foxes consistently avoid humans unless cornered.

Sam laughed. "Do you feed them?" he asked.

"Never," Jane replied firmly. "Feeding wildlife inevitably causes problems. They become too tame and audaciously enter houses or beg for food."

The foxes often help control rats by hunting small pests. They sometimes eat insects, fruit, or leftovers. Their population seems stable – around 150,000 in urban areas across the UK. Yet road accidents kill many annually, and diseases spread rapidly in crowded cities.

One winter night, Jane heard scratching at her bin. She opened the window quietly and saw a young fox staring up curiously. It didn't run away immediately – it just tilted its head thoughtfully. "You're getting remarkably brave," she whispered.

The fox finally trotted off silently into the darkness. Jane closed the window and smiled. City life had changed these wild animals. They adapt cleverly, living

side by side with people. But they remain wild – always cautious, rarely friendly, occasionally cheeky.

Jane now puts her bins out carefully each week and reminds her neighbours: "Respect them, but don't encourage them." The foxes continue their nightly patrols, shadows in the city that frequently remind everyone: nature is closer than we think.

Questions:

Question 1: How often does Jane see foxes in her garden, and what adverb describes how they move through the shadows?

Question 2: According to the story, why do foxes rarely attack people in cities?

Question 3: What can foxes easily do to plastic bags, and how do they get into gardens?

Question 4: What does Jane never do, and why does she say feeding wildlife inevitably causes problems?

Question 5: How do the foxes behave when Jane sees the young one staring up at her window, and what does she whisper to it?

Answers:

Answer 1: Jane sees foxes almost every night. The adverb that describes how they move through the shadows is "stealthily".

Answer 2: Foxes rarely attack people in cities because they consistently avoid humans unless they are cornered (and attacks are extremely rare).

Answer 3: Foxes can easily tear open plastic bags with their sharp teeth and claws. They sometimes quickly cut holes in fences to reach gardens.

Answer 4: Jane never feeds the foxes. She says feeding wildlife inevitably causes problems because they become too tame and audaciously enter houses or beg for food.

Answer 5: The young fox stares up curiously and doesn't run away immediately; it just tilts its head thoughtfully. Jane whispers, "You're getting remarkably brave."

24 Adverbs and word order



Foxes **rarely** appear **in the daytime**.
They **usually** look for food **at night**.

1 Adverbs before the verb

We use adverbs of frequency to say how often we do something:

100% ← HOW OFTEN → 0%
always normally usually frequently often sometimes occasionally rarely seldom hardly ever never

We usually put these adverbs BEFORE the main verb:

Foxes **rarely** appear in the daytime. They **usually** look for food at night.

Do you **always** get up late on Sundays?

But we put them AFTER *be*, auxiliary verbs and modal verbs:

My boss **is never** late for work. We **are hardly ever** in this part of town.

I **have never** watched a rugby match. You **should always** be polite to strangers.

We can also put the adverbs *usually, normally, often, frequently, sometimes* and *occasionally* at the beginning or end of the sentence:

I admit we go to fast food places **sometimes**. **Occasionally** I like to eat really spicy food.

- ⚠ We don't put *always, never, hardly ever, rarely* and *seldom* immediately before the subject at the beginning of a sentence (► Unit 102.2):

✗ *Always we go to the beach in August.* ✓ We **always** go to the beach in August.

2 Adverbs after the verb

We usually put adverbs of manner (e.g. *well, badly, slowly, fast, easily, happily, carefully, fluently, perfectly*) after the main verb:

Lions **move slowly** and silently. Foxes **run fast**. Did the interview go **well**?

- ⚠ When there is an object after the verb, we usually put the adverb after the object:

✗ *She speaks fluently Russian.* ✓ She speaks **Russian fluently**.

✗ *Did she drive fast the car?* ✓ Did she drive **the car fast**?

When there is an object, adverbs of manner ending in *-ly* can sometimes go between an auxiliary or modal verb and a main verb:

They **have badly damaged** your car. You **can easily finish** that project in a day.

3 Adverbs at the beginning or end of the sentence

We usually put adverbs and adverbials of place and time (e.g. *here, there, in London, yesterday, on Saturday, immediately, every day, at night*) at the end of the sentence:

Foxes usually hunt **at night**. Did you go to university **here**? I didn't have lunch **yesterday**.

If we want to give the adverb special emphasis, we can put it at the beginning:

It's quite a large house. **Upstairs** there are three bedrooms.

'Do you drive to work on your own every day?' 'No. **On Mondays** a friend comes with me.'

- ⚠ We don't put adverbs of place and time in front of the main verb:

✗ *I don't here live.* ✗ *Foxes at night look for food.* ✗ *We to Greece went for our holiday.*

Practice

1 Write the words and phrases in the correct order.

0 always a shower do you in the morning have ?

Do you always have a shower in the morning?

1 dolphin I've seen never a

2 go to rarely the theatre we

3 go to work Christine this week didn't

4 speak I'd like to fluently French

5 live when there did you ?

6 late is the bus frequently

7 in London always bad the traffic is

8 the questions carefully answer

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the text with words and phrases from A-L below. There are three extra words or phrases. **2.47** Listen and check.

Urban foxes

(0) *H*..... foxes were just a problem for farmers.

They would attack chickens and sheep

(1) They (2) into towns. But now they have become a serious problem for the residents of Britain's cities. (3) a lot of people live in houses with gardens. And many British cities have large parks. These are perfect places for foxes to live in.

The foxes (4) serious diseases; and

these can be passed on to cats and other

pets. (5) raid rubbish bins. They can

(6) plastic bags and their strong teeth and claws can (7) cut holes in fences.

They leave food and rubbish all over the street and this encourages rats. (8) foxes can be aggressive towards people and children, especially if a mother is protecting her cubs.

A at night

B quickly

C open easily

D In Britain

E the foxes after dark

F often carry

G easily open

~~H In the old days~~

I rarely came

J Occasionally

K came rarely

L After dark the foxes

3 In each sentence one adverb is in the wrong position. Circle the word and mark the correct position. If there is more than one possible position, show them all. **2.48** Listen and check.

0 In the wild foxes (rarely) are aggressive to people.

1 She occasionally is on the same train as me.

2 I don't like in the evenings eating a heavy meal.

3 Always we buy organic food.

4 I this morning received an interesting email.

5 Danny has often fruit for breakfast.

6 My sister and I during the daytime watch TV.

7 It's snowing so everyone is slowly driving.

8 You should wash your hands always before a meal.

9 We here hardly ever have lunch.

10 Samantha well sang at the concert on Friday.

Answers

UNIT 24

- 1**
- 1 I've never seen a dolphin.
 - 2 We rarely go to the theatre.
 - 3 Christine didn't go to work this week. / This week Christine didn't go to work.
 - 4 I'd like to speak French fluently.
 - 5 When did you live there?
 - 6 The bus is frequently late.
 - 7 The traffic is always bad in London. / In London the traffic is always bad.
 - 8 Answer the questions carefully.
- 2** 1 A 2 I 3 D 4 F 5 L 6 G 7 B 8 J
- 3**
- 1 She occasionally is on the same train as me.
 - 2 I don't like in the evenings eating a heavy meal.
 - 3 Always We buy organic food.
 - 4 I this morning received an interesting email.
 - 5 Danny has often fruit for breakfast.
 - 6 My sister and I during the daytime watch TV.
 - 7 It's snowing so everyone is slowly driving.
 - 8 You should wash your hands always before a meal.
 - 9 We here hardly ever have lunch.
 - 10 Samantha well sang at the concert on Friday.