

What are French Adverbs?

Worksheet

French adverbs modify verbs or adjectives and are usually formed by adding -ment to the feminine adjective: 'sérieux' (serious) → 'sérieusement' (seriously). Position is flexible: after the verb in simple tenses or before the past participle in compound tenses.

Questions

1. Form the adverb from 'sérieux' (serious):

- A) sérieuxment
- B) sérieusement
- C) sérieusely
- D) sérieux-ment

2. Where does the adverb go in 'Elle a lu le livre rapidement'?

- A) Before 'a' (Elle rapidement a lu)
- B) Before the past participle (Elle a rapidement lu)
- C) After the past participle (Elle a lu rapidement)
- D) At the beginning (Rapidement elle a lu)

3. Which adverb formation is IRREGULAR?

- A) 'Heureux' → 'heureusement'
- B) 'Bon' → 'bien'
- C) 'Lent' → 'lentement'
- D) 'Évident' → 'évidemment'

4. Can adverbs start a sentence in French?

- A) Never — adverbs must follow the verb
- B) Only certain adverbs of time/certainty can
- C) Only when the sentence is inverted
- D) No — French doesn't allow this

5. Form the adverb from 'heureux' (happy) and use it in a sentence.

6. Form the adverb from 'lent' (slow) and place it in a compound tense.

7. Create a sentence with 'évident' (obvious) → adverb form.

8. Define: How do you form a French adverb?

9. Define: Position of short adverbs in simple tenses?

10. Define: Position of adverbs in compound tenses?

Answer Key

1. B) sérieusement — Feminine 'sérieuse' + -ment = 'sérieusement'. Double 'e' disappears; only option 1 is correct.
2. B) Before the past participle (Elle a rapidement lu) — In compound tenses, adverbs go BEFORE the past participle. Option 1 is correct.
3. B) 'Bon' → 'bien' — 'Bon' → 'bien' is irregular (doesn't use -ment). All others follow the regular -ment rule.
4. B) Only certain adverbs of time/certainty can — Yes, adverbs of certainty ('heureusement', 'malheureusement'), time, and frequency can start sentences.
5. Feminine of 'heureux' is 'heureuse' Add -ment: 'heureuse' + 'ment' = 'heureusement' Sentence: 'Heureusement, tout va bien.' (Fortunately, everything is fine.) Note: 'heureusement' starts the sentence as an adverb of certainty.
6. Feminine: 'lente' Add -ment: 'lentement' Compound tense: 'Il a mangé lentement.' (He ate slowly.) Note: adverb goes BEFORE past participle 'mangé'.
7. Feminine: 'évidente' Add -ment: 'évidemment' Sentence: 'Évidemment, c'est faux.' (Obviously, it's false.) Alternative: 'Il a évidemment raison.' (He is obviously right.)
8. Usually by adding -ment to the feminine form of an adjective. Example: 'rapide' → 'rapidement' (quickly).
9. Usually AFTER the verb. Example: 'Elle parle clairement' (She speaks clearly).
10. Usually BEFORE the past participle. Example: 'Elle a clairement parlé' (She has spoken clearly).

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