

Unit 106

Word order (2) - adverbs with the verb

a We put some adverbs (for example **always**, **also**, **probably**) with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- Tom **always goes** to work by car.
- We were feeling very tired. We **were also** hungry.
- Your car **has probably** been stolen.

b Study these rules for the position of adverbs in the middle of a sentence. (They are only general rules, so these are exceptions.)

i) If the verb is one word (**goes**, **cooked** etc.), we usually put the adverb *before* the verb:

	<i>adverb</i>	<i>verb</i>	
Tom	always	goes	to work by car.

- I cleaned the house and **also cooked** the dinner. (*not* 'cooked also')
- Jack hardly **ever watches television** and **rarely reads** newspapers.
- She **almost fell** over as she came down the stairs.

Note that these adverbs (**always/often/also** etc.) go before **have to**:

- We **always have to** wait a long time for the bus.

But adverbs go *after* **am/is/are/was/were**:

- We were feeling very tired. We **were also** hungry.
- Why are you always late? You're **never** on time.
- The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

ii) Sometimes a verb is two or more words (**can remember**, **doesn't smoke**, **has been stolen** etc.). We usually put the adverb after the first part of the verb:

	<i>verb 1</i>	<i>adverb</i>	<i>verb 2</i>	
I	can	never	remember	his name.
Ann	doesn't	usually	smoke.	
Are you		definitely	going	to the party tomorrow?
Your car has		probably	been	stolen.

- My parent **have always lived** in London.
- Jack can't cook. He **can't even boil** an egg.
- The house **was only built** a year ago and it's **already failing** down.

In negative sentences **probably** goes before the negative. So we say:

- I **probably won't** see you. *or* I will **probably not** see you.
(*but not* 'I won't probably see you')

c We also use **all** and **both** in these positions:

- We **all felt** ill after the meal.
- Jack and Tom **have both applied** for the job.
- We **are all going** out for a meal this evening.
- My parents **are both** teachers.

- The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

