

## SOME USEFUL ADVERBS IN FRENCH

**Goal:** By the end of this lesson, you should be able to attach an adverb of *manière* to a verb when answering *comment* questions. Adverbs of manner (*adverbes de manière*) basically help provide answers for *comment* (how) questions. But understanding how they are formed may require a little more work since adverbs of manner in French can be employed in different ways. This lesson will provide you with some helpful information about this topic

**Important:** This list of adverbs I am about to provide is not exclusive. These are just adverbs you are more likely to use or hear daily. For more information on the subject, feel free to conduct your own research on the topic. You can also email me to request more information. I will gladly help☺.

Français	English
<b>Exprès</b>	On purpose/purposely
<b>À dessein</b>	On purpose
<b>Bien</b>	Well
<b>Mal</b>	Bad
<b>Mieux</b>	Better
<b>Pis</b>	worse
<b>Ensemble</b>	together
<b>Debout</b>	Standing
<b>Incognito</b>	Incognito
<b>Comment</b>	How
<b>Comme</b>	As
<b>Plutôt</b>	Rather/instead
<b>Vite</b>	Fast
<b>Volontiers</b>	Willingly/with pleasure
<b>Ainsi</b>	So/ like this/in this manner

## Neutral Adjectives as Adverbs.

Neutral adjectives can also be employed as adverbs of manner:

Bon (good), bas (low), haut (high), cher (expensive), clair (clear), franc (frank), juste (just), faux (false), etc.

But very often these adjectives must be paired with specific verbs before they can make any logical sense. I provided you with a list of the most common expressions.

<b>Voler bas</b>	To fly low
<b>sentir bon</b>	To smell good
<b>coûter cher</b>	To be expensive/ to cost much
<b>voir clair</b>	To see clearly, to understand
<b>marcher droit</b>	To walk straight
<b>chanter faux</b>	To sing out of tune

<b>parler franc</b>	To speak frankly/ to be sincere
<b>viser juste</b>	To aim right

### How to express adverbs in –ly forms into French

I'm assuming that we all use frequently (or at least know) the English adverbs ending in the suffix “ly”: quietly, sincerely, lovingly, kindly, etc. In French, too, there exists such a suffix to that corresponds to the “ly” suffix in English: It's the suffix “ment”.

A rule of thumb is to turn masculine adjectives into their feminine forms, then add “ment” to them (This rule applies when the masculine adjectives do NOT end with é, u, i.)

#### Formula = Feminine form of the adjective + ment.

*[Note that in this case, the adjective in the masculine form does not end in i, é, u.]*

#### Examples:

New (adjective) = nouveau → newly (adv.) = nouvellement (nouvelle + ment)

Serious (adjective) = sérieux → seriously (adv.) = sérieusement (sérieuse + ment)

Narrow (adjective) = étroit → narrowly (adv.) = étroitement (étroite + ment)

If the masculine adjectives end in i, é, u, then, simply add the suffix ment without changing them into their feminine forms.

#### Examples:

Polite (adj.) = poli → politely (adv.) = poliment (poli + ment)

Absolute (adj.) = absolu → absolutely (adv.) = absolument (absolu + ment)

True (adj.) = vrai → truly (adv.) = vraiment (vrai + ment)

Moderate (adj.) = modéré → moderately (adv.) = modérément (modéré + ment)

#### Exceptions :

gai → (gaiement) → (gaily/joyfully).

Impuni → impunément → (without punishment).

Gentil → gentiment (kindly)

#### Some masculine adjectives ending in “e” will have their adverbs in ément.

#### Example:

Aveugle (blind) : aveuglément (blindly)

Commode : commodément

Énorme (enormous) : énormément (enormously)

Immense (immense): immensément (immensely)

Uniforme (uniform) : uniformément (uniformly)

Intense (intense) : intensément (intensely)

**Adjectives in ent and ant form their adverbs in emment and amment, respectively.**

Prudent (careful): prudemment. (Carefully)

Étonnant (stunning, surprising): Étonnamment (stunningly, surprisingly)

Bruyant (noisy): bruyamment (noisily)

There are a few exceptions to this rule (as usual, of course), but I think I'm going to stop here. Already you may start practicing the adverbs listed using the rules provided. In case you encounter one that does not fit to the categories listed above, please check your dictionary or send me an email. A little bit of trials and errors will be necessary here, I'm afraid.

Bonne chance! ☺