



- A: Today's lesson was really difficult!
- B: Yes. Even Melissa didn't understand it.
- A: And I can't believe how much homework he's given us.
- B: It's only two exercises.
- A: But remember that we also have the work from yesterday. I'm only halfway through that. I don't have time to do today's work as well!
- B: True. I'd forgotten we have that, too. Well, we'll just have to work really late tonight!

Presentation

Focus adverbs emphasize a particular piece of information:

Only Ali knew what he was talking about.

We have to do yesterday's homework as well.

alone, only, just

Use *alone*, *only*, and *just* to focus on a particular element or feature to the exclusion of others:

He could only play the guitar. (He couldn't play the piano.)

He alone could play the guitar. (Nobody else could play the guitar.)

Just and *only* can be used to focus on nouns, verbs, and adjectives. They come before the noun, verb, or adjective they are focusing on:

He's just / only joking.

Just / Only Jim's coming tonight.

Alone can only be used with nouns. It comes after the noun:

Jim alone was coming tonight. (no one else)

When *alone* is used after a verb, it has a different meaning.

Jim was coming alone tonight. (= He was on his own; no one else was coming with him.)

also, as well, too

Use *also*, *as well*, and *too* to emphasize an additional element or feature in a sentence. *Also* comes before most verbs, but after the verb *to be*, or at the beginning of a sentence.

He also writes his own songs. He's also a song writer.

Also, he writes his own songs.

As well and *too* come after the verb (and object if there is one):

He writes his own songs, too. He writes his own songs as well.

You can use *too* and *as well* with nouns and pronouns in short answers: *Me, too. John as well.*

even

Use *even* to show that you think something is unusual or surprising. You can use *even* to focus on verbs and nouns. *Even* comes before the element it is focusing on:

He even writes his own songs. (in addition to playing the guitar and singing)

Even John couldn't do it! (= This is surprising as John can usually do everything!)

Changes in meaning

Sometimes the meaning of a sentence can change when you change the position of the adverb:

Even Sally doesn't understand the question. (= It's surprising that Sally doesn't understand because she's clever.)

Sally doesn't even understand the question. (= Sally doesn't understand the question, let alone the answer.)

Only Dawn eats meat. (= Nobody else eats meat.)

Dawn eats only meat. (= She doesn't eat anything else.)

Just Nigel took the exam. (= Nigel took the exam on his own.)

Nigel just sat in on the classes. (= But he didn't take the final exam.)

Kim alone bikes to work. (= Only Kim bikes to work.)

Kim bikes to work alone. (= Kim bikes on her own.)

1 Read the article and underline the correct adverb.

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Art appreciation

■ Research is being carried out to find out whether it's ¹*only* / *even* humans who can appreciate and produce art, or whether animals can do it ²*too* / *just*. Both elephants and chimpanzees have been trained to produce paintings such as the one in the photo, but are these really works of art or ³*alone* / *just* random shapes and lines? Elephants and chimpanzees can see a range of color, but

animals who are completely color-blind, such as seals, have ⁴*also* / *only* been trained to paint. The "artwork" they produce ⁵*even* / *alone* looks similar to pictures painted by elephants. However, since they do not see in color, surely we have to deduce that these paintings can ⁶*too* / *only* be random strokes, however much we would like to believe otherwise.



2 Put the adverb in parentheses in the correct position in the sentence. In some sentences, there is more than one possibility.

- 1 I bought some new shirts and I ^{also} bought a cool pair of shoes. (also)
- 2 Jeremy doesn't know the answer and he's the cleverest kid in the class. (even)
- 3 I think it's Richard coming tonight. Everyone else is too busy. (just)
- 4 My teacher thinks local history is really interesting. My father thinks it is interesting. (as well)
- 5 She wanted to come but she couldn't. (too)
- 6 I'm asking you to do the dishes. I'm not asking you to do anything else. (only)
- 7 Sue finished the race in time. All the others took too long. (alone)
- 8 I have to finish this last exercise and then I can come out. (just)

3 Rewrite the first sentence using the adverb in bold.

- 1 Did you also meet the rest of the band?
too Did you meet the rest of the band, too ?
- 2 Steffi was the only person who passed the exam.
alone Steffi alone .
- 3 We like Bollywood movies as well.
also We also .
- 4 My parents don't listen to anything except classical music.
only My parents only .
- 5 I want to be left in peace, that's all.
just I just .
- 6 He does most of the housework, including the cooking.
even He even .