

CHAPTER FOUR Adverbial Phrases

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CHAPTER FOUR

ADVERB PHRASES

The first section of this chapter is concerned with the characteristics of adverb phrases in English. It covers the forms, functions and positions of adverb phrases. The second section provides a detailed discussion of adverb phrases in Thai. The aspects which are examined in the section include types of Thai adverbs, adverbs as modifiers and comparative structure.

4.1 Characteristics of Adverbs in English

In dealing with the adverb phrases in English and Thai, more attention is given to the function of the adverbs which modify verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Adverbs are the most mixed of all the major word classes. Adverbs are difficult to define because there are many subclasses and positional variations. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2004) defines an adverb as a word that adds more information about place, time, manner, cause or degree to a verb, an adjective, a phrase or another adverb: In '*speaking kindly*', '*incredibly deep*', '*just in time*' and '*too quickly*', the words '*kindly*', '*incredibly*', '*just*' and '*too*' are all adverbs.

An adverb modifies a verb by giving circumstantial information about the time, place, or manner in which an action, event or process takes place. It adds new bits of meaning to the sentence, but does not change the basic meaning. Even it is left out, the sentence is still grammatical.

Considering the forms of adverbs, 1) many adverbs, although not all, are formed by adding the suffix 'ly' to an adjective, e.g. *sadly, quickly, suddenly*. 2. Some are formed from nouns in combination with other suffixes: *clockwise, lengthwise*. 3. A set of common adverbs have no suffixes: *here, then, now, just, well, therefore, soon*. These adverbs can be identified by their distribution in sentences, that is, where they occur and which lexical categories they co-occur with (McArthur, 2005: 11-15).

Gradable adverbs can take comparative and superlative inflections. There are three types of adverbs of comparison:

Absolute : *easily*

Comparative : *more easily*

Superlative: *most easily*

The comparative is used for a comparison between two, and the superlative is used for a comparison where more than two are involved (Quirk and Greenbaum, 2007: 142-3).

Comparison is expressed by

1. the inflected forms in – *er* and – *est*,
2. the use of *more* and *most*,
3. the forms of equational, lesser and least degrees of comparison, '*as, less, least*.'

There are some adverbs that have the comparatives and superlatives formed from different stems:

<i>well</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>best</i>
<i>badly</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>worst etc.</i>

For example:

He behaves *more/ less* politely than his friend.

He behaves *as* politely *as* his friend.

Ben writes *more* clearly than his brother does.

The comparatives of adverbs can be pre-modified by amplifying intensifiers and downtoners.

Much better

Far sooner

Much more carefully

Rather better

Somewhat sooner

4.1.1 Syntactic Functions of Adverbs

Adverbs have the following syntactic functions (Downing and Locke, 2002: 556-7):

1. modifiers of adjectives: *all* wet, *quite* happy, *fairly* good, *too* long, *completely* new, *bitterly* cold, *truly* splendid, *very* difficult, *extremely* cold, *highly* toxic.

Most commonly, the modifying adverb is an intensifier. The most frequently used intensifier is 'very.' Other intensifiers include *so*, *pretty*, *rather*, *quite*, *unbelievably*. Many are restricted to a small set of lexical items, for example *deeply* (anxious), *strikingly* (handsome), *sharply* (critical).

2. modifiers of adverbs: *nearly* there, *more* easily, *very* often, *too* frankly, *more* humbly, *truly unbelievably* fast.
3. modifiers of noun phrases: a *nearby* hotel, *quite* a success.

Some adverbs signifying place or time post-modify noun phrases:

The way *ahead*, the sentence *below*, the day *before*.

4. modifiers of determiners: *about* double, *roughly* half, *almost* all.

5. modifiers of prepositions: *right* out of sight, *just* down the road.

6. qualifiers of adjectives: quick *enough*, very beautiful *indeed*.

7. qualifiers of adverbs: quickly *enough*, beautifully *indeed*, never *again*.

8. qualifiers of nouns: the President *then*, the journey *back*, the castle *there*.

9. complete in prepositions: over *here*, through *there*, from *inside*, till *now*.

10. modifiers of verbs: He talked *loudly*.

She slept *soundly*.

11. modifiers of a sentence: *Fortunately*, she handled the matter *competently*.

So, the whole thing was awful.

The adverbs which can modify a whole sentence include *maybe*, *perhaps*, *hopefully*, *however*, *frankly*.

Adverbs can express a wide **range of meaning**. Adverbs can be divided into adverbs of *space*, *time* and *process*.

4.1.2 Adverbials

The clausal function which adverbs perform is termed **adverbial**.

Adverbial is a word, phrase, or clause that modifies a verb or a verb plus other words. This is a function which can be performed by other categories above word level. Prepositional phrases, noun phrases, and adverb phrases can all be used in sentences to give circumstantial

information about time, place and manner. The term **adverbial** is much larger than an **adverb**. Along with terms like **subject**, **object** and **complement** it denotes an element of clause structure, as opposed to a *word class* (Finch, 2000: 84-5). Most adverbials are optional and may be omitted without making a sentence ungrammatical.

Adverbials express a wide range of meanings.

Time : I left *at 4 o'clock*.

Place : I went *to London*.

Manner: I walked *slowly*.

Adding a comment: *Frankly*, I do not believe what you said.

There is no fixed number of adverbials in a clause. In addition, adverbials are highly mobile in the clause. They are optional because they can be omitted from the clause.

Adverbs are optional in basic sentences. They may or may not occur.

The position that adverbials can occupy depends on their forms, and they have a number of different forms (Geist, 1971: 66-70). Adverbial can be

- **adverbs or adverb phrases:**

One of my friends has *very kindly* helped me.

The dog barked *loudly*.

- **prepositional phrases:**

I found several people waiting *outside the building*.

I was surprised *at the news*.

-**noun phrase:** sometimes noun phrases can be adverbials, specially those of time, frequency and means. For example,

What are you doing *this afternoon*?

They were playing *last week*.

The movie lasted *three hours*.

- infinitive clauses:

His first duty is *to stop inflation*.

- verbless clauses:

Soldiers are authorized to use force *if necessary*.

The man was going, *unaware of the danger*.

- clause with a finite verb:

We have to do something *before it is too late*.

We are doing it *although we are very tired*.

Positions of Adverbials

Most adverbials are mobile. They can occur in different places in the sentence (Leech, 2006: 239-43). They can appear before the subject:

Luckily, he escaped unhurt.

They can be in the mid-position before the main verb, if no auxiliaries are present.

She *always* gets up at six.

If there is an auxiliary verb, the adverbial follows it:

I will *never* come here again.

An adverbial in the end- position comes after the verb, or after the object:

She is paid *monthly*.

I'd like to leave *as soon as possible*.

Don't call me *before nine o'clock*.

Long adverbial normally occur in the end- position.

They're going *to the city on Friday next week*.

He was a complete failure *as far as mathematics is concerned*.

Long adverbials rarely occur in mid- position. Mid-position is usually restricted to short adverbs like *almost, hardly, just, never*:

The concert *just* ended.

Front-position gives contrast, or provides the background or setting for the clause which follows:

As far as the climate change is concerned, our planet is in a desperate state.

Last years there were riots. *Now* we have strikes and demonstrations.

Adverbials which denote manner, means, and instrument usually have end- position:

You can go *by taxi*.

The conference opened *formally* today.

Place adverbials usually have end- position:

I was born *in England*.

They are heading *to the meeting room*.

It is also possible to have this type of adverbs in the initial position, especially in literary writing.

At the corner of the road there is a food shop.

On the left you can see the beautiful palace.

Two place adverbials can occur together in end-position, usually with the smaller location before the larger one:

Many people eat *in Chinese restaurant in France*.

Time frequency adverbs denoting indefinite frequency typically have mid-position. They include *always, ever, frequently, generally, normally, occasionally, often, rarely, seldom, sometimes, usually*:

The train *normally* leaves at six.

I am *sometimes* asked a difficult question.

Time adverbials in end-position tend to occur in the order of '**duration+ frequency + time-when**'.

I pay the rent *monthly* (frequency) *this year* (time-when).

I used to swim *for an hour* (duration) *every day* (frequency) *when I was young* (time-when).

Adverbials in the end position usually come in the order of manner, place and time.

She worked *hard last semester*.

They performed *beautifully on the stage last night*.

Adverbs of direction (movement) come before adverbs of position.

The children are running *around* upstairs.

4. 2 Adverbs in Thai

The sections which follow concern adverb phrases in Thai. Characteristics, types of adverbs, positions of adverbs and adverbs as modifiers are examined in detail.

Adverbs in Thai can be divided as 1) *manner* 2) *frequency* 3) *quantity* 4) *time* 5) *place* 6) *miscellaneous*.

4.2.1 Adverbs of Manner

An adverb of manner in English can be formed by the addition of *-ly* to the adjective, for example (*slow – slowly*), by the unchanged adjectival form, for example (*hard – hard*), or by an irregular change from the adjective, for example (*good – well*).

In a similar way, adverbs of manner in Thai are derived from some adjectives. For example, /di:/ ‘good’ which is an adjective as in /khon di:/ literally ‘person **good**’ is used as an adverb after the verb in /tham di:/ ‘do **well**’ (Iwasaki, 2005: 92). In this respect, it is similar to an adverb in English as it modifies the verb.

Other examples which act in a similar way are the words /rew/ ‘quick’ and /supha:p/ ‘polite’. These two words are adjectives. When they post-modify the verb, they become adverbs. The form of these words remain the same. The word /supha:p/ as in /khon supha:p/ ‘man polite’ (= a polite man) is an adjective. It is changed into an adverb after the verb as in /phued supha:b/ ‘speak polite’ (=speak politely).

The adjectives which are used as adverbs of manner are listed below:

/rew/ ‘fast, quickly’

/cha:/ /slow, slowly’

/su-pha:p/ ‘polite, politely’

/sok-kra-prok/ ‘dirty, dirtily’

/chat/ ‘clear, clearly’

As regards of the position, adverbs of manner must directly come after the verbs. Adverbs in the examples are italicized.

/khao wing *rew* /

he run fast

‘He runs fast.’

/khun khuan phut *suphab*/

you should speak polite

‘You should speak politely.’

It is obvious that as far as the adverb of manner is concerned, the word order in both English and Thai is structurally similar. However, the adverb of manner in English is more flexible as it can also appear before the verb, for example, ‘They **politely** speak to me.’ On the contrary, it will be awkward if the adverb of manner in Thai comes immediately before the verb.

Adverbs of manner in Thai may be explicitly marked as adverbs with the adverb-forming prefix /**ya:ng**/ ‘like’ or a preposition /**duay**/ ‘with’ followed by a nominalized adjective with /**khwam**/ = /duay khwam/, for example:

/ya:ng *rew*/ ‘quickly’

/ya:ng *nak*/ ‘hard’

/duay khwam suk/ ‘happily’

/duay khwam sabaiy/ ‘comfortably’

The adverbs of manner in Thai which carry the words /**ya:ng**/ or /**duay khwam**/ normally are found in writing. They do not have to come immediately after the verb. Some words may be placed between them.

/phut (kap phu-uen) ya:ng supha:b

 speak with other polite

 ‘Speak with others politely.’

Other examples of /**ya:ng**/ and /**duay**/ which are placed before adverbs are:

/khao kin aha:n ya:ng rew/

 he eat food quick

 ‘He eats food quickly.’

/chan tham nga:n duay khwam ot-ton/

 i work with patient

 ‘I work patiently.’

When an adverb of manner derived from an adjective is negated, the negative /**mai**/ ‘not’ in bold face comes before the adverb. The negator in English cannot be put before the adverb, *He goes *not quickly*.

/khao phu:t **mai** supha:b/

 he speak not polite

 ‘He does not speak politely.’

/khao phu:t thai **mai** chat/

 he speak thai not clear

 ‘He does not speak Thai clearly.’

Another unique characteristic of Thai manner adverbs is that some adverbs of manner may be duplicated, for example /**di:**/ ‘good’ is duplicated as /di: di:/ ‘good good’, /**cha:**/ ‘slowly’ as /cha: cha:/ ‘slow slow’ and /**chat** **chat**/ ‘clear clear’ as shown in the examples:

/khian di: di:/
write good good
‘Write it well.’

/phu:t cha: cha:/
speak slow slow
‘Speak slowly.’

/phu:t chat chat/
speak clear clear
‘Speak clearly.’

4.2.2 Adverbs of Frequency

Most adverbs of frequency serve as a response to a question ‘how often’.
For example:

Q. How often do you go to the movie?

A. Every Sunday/ twice a week/ once in a month etc.

The examples of the adverbs of frequency in English are : *daily, once, three times, always, often, occasionally, sometimes etc.*

The words which characterize the adverbs of frequency in Thai are:

/sam^ˇer/ ‘always’

/boiy/ ‘often’

/ru[^]ey/ ‘all the time’

This type of adverbs always appears at the end of sentences. English adverbs of frequency usually come before the verb.

The examples of the English adverbs of frequency are:

‘He **often** gets up late.’

‘We **always** follow the traffic rules.’

‘That man is **all the times** busy.’

The adverbs of frequency in Thai always occur at the end of a sentence.

/khao chuay chan sam^ˇer/

he help i always

‘He always helps me.’

/rao jer ther boiy/

we meet she often

‘We often meet her.’

/ra:kha: khuen rueay/

price go up all the time

‘The price keeps rising all the time.’

In addition to the examples given above, common words of the adverbs of frequency include (Iwasaki, 2005: 103):

/ba:ngthi:/	‘sometimes’
/ba:ngkhrang/	‘sometimes’
/ta:m thammada:/	‘usually’
/ta:m pokkati/	‘normally’ ‘usually’
/suanma:k/	‘mostly’
/suan yai/	‘mostly’
/doey thuapai/	‘generally, in general’

The adverbs listed above have more flexible positions in the sentences. They can appear at the beginning, the middle and the end of a sentence though the initial position is most common.

The initial position

/ba:ngthi: phom a:t pai/
 sometimes i may go
 ‘I may go sometimes.’

/ta:mpokkati phom chawp phang dontri:/
 usually I like listen music
 ‘Usually, I like listening to music.’

The middle position

/khonthai **suanma:k** mai kin pla: dip/
Thai mostly not eat fish raw
'Most Thais do not eat raw fish.'

The final position

/phom ruesuek buea **ba:ngkrang/**
i feel bored sometimes
'I feel bored sometimes.'

It is clear that as far as the adverbs of frequency are concerned, Thai adverbs are more mobile than its English counterparts which are mostly restricted to the position before the verbs.

4.2.3 Temporal Adverbial Phrases

Adverbs of time function as responses to the questions, 'when', 'how long' and express some relation in time (Quirk, 2007: 242). The examples of the adverbs of time in English are: *just, today, then, afterwards, before, lately, soon, now, and after lunch* etc.

In this category of adverbs, components of a temporal phrase in Thai will be discussed in detail. The positions of the phrase is then considered.

Vichin Panupong (1970: 106 ff) has provided a detailed account of a temporal phrase with its components which are demonstrated in the succeeding sections.

A temporal phrase in Thai consists of one of the following:

1. a sequence of two or three time-words
2. one, two or three time-words followed by a high-tone determinative or by one of the fixed phrases
3. a cardinal numeral accompanied by two or three time-words
4. a cardinal numeral preceded by a time-word, and followed by two time-words and a high-tone determinative, or followed by a time-word and the fixed phrase 'thi laew'
5. a time-word or two followed by an ordinal numeral
6. a time-word preceded by a pre-numeral and followed by an ordinal numeral.

1). A sequence of two or three time-words:

a) a sequence of two time-words:

/muea ki/ 'just now'

/muea khawn/ 'formerly'

b) a sequence of three time-words:

/muea wan kawn/ 'the other day'

/muea tawn chao/ 'this morning'

2. One, two or three time-words followed by a high-tone determinative or by one of the fixed phrases:

- a) one, two or three time-words followed by a high-tone determinative:

/khuen nan/	‘that night’
/pi: non/	‘some years back’
/muea wa:n ni/	‘yesterday’
/muea kawn non/	‘in the old years’
/muea tawn chao ni/	‘this very morning’
/muea chao wa:n ni/	‘yesterday morning’

- b) one, two or three time-words followed by a fixed phrase:

/duean thi laew/	‘last month’
/pi: thi laew/	‘last year’
/muea a:thit thi laew/	‘last week’
/duean thi ja thueng/	‘next month’

3. A cardinal number accompanied by two or three time-words:

- a) a cardinal numeral preceded and followed by a time-word:

/tawn song mong/	‘at 2.p. m.’
/muea si: thum/	‘at 10. p.m.’

- b) a cardinal numeral preceded by one and followed by a sequence of two-time words:

/tawn hok mong yen/	‘at six in the evening’
/muea ha pi: kawn/	‘five years ago’

- c) a cardinal numeral preceded by two and followed by one time-word:

/muea tawn jet mong/	‘at 7 a.m.’
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4. A cardinal numeral preceded by a time-word, and followed by two time-words and a high-tone determinative, or followed by a time-word and the fixed phrase 'thi laew'.

a) a cardinal numeral preceded by a time-word and followed by two time-words and a high-tone determinative:

/muea sa:m duean kawn ni/ 'three months ago'

/muea song a:thit kawn non/ 'two weeks back'

b) a cardinal numeral preceded by a time-word and followed by a time-word and the fixed phrase 'thi laew':

/muea sip na:thi: thi laew/ 'ten minutes ago'

5. A time-word or two followed by an ordinal numeral:

/duean thisong/ 'second month'

/pi: sa:m/ 'the third year'

/a:thit na/ 'next week'

6. A time-word preceded by a pre-numeral and followed by an ordinal Numeral:

/i:k pi: diew/ 'another year'

/tang duean nueng/ 'for a month'

Temporal adverbs in Thai are significantly similar to the temporal adverbs in English as far as the position in a sentence is concerned. They may be put at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. Adverbs of time in English can appear at the beginning or the end of a sentence:

I am leaving **today**.

Yesterday you did not come in time.

I was in New York **last year**.

Last year I was in New York.

The following are the examples of the temporal adverbs in Thai (in italics):

/khao ma:thueng *muea wa:nnil*
he arrive yesterday
'He arrived yesterday.'

/tawn chao rot nan/
morning bus crowded
'In the morning the bus is crowded.'

/muea khuen khao yu: duek/
last night he stay late
'Last night he stayed up late.'

/khao ja ma: *tawnbaiy*/
he will come afternoon
'He will come in the afternoon.'

/phuakkhao ma:thueng *tachao*/
they arrive early morning
'They arrived early morning.'

/muea wa:n chan yu: ban/
yesterday i stay home
'Yesterday I was at home.'

/khuen ni chan ja pai du: nang/
tonight i will go see movie
'Tonight I am going to the movie.'

4.2.4 Place Adverbial Phrases

Place adverbials denote static position and direction, movement, and passage. Most adverbs of place are prepositional phrases, but clauses, and noun phrases are frequently used (Quirk, 2007: 236):

He lives **in a small village**.

They followed him **wherever he went**.

She works **a long way from here**.

They are not **there**.

Place adverbials are used as a response to the question, 'where.' As regards the position of the place adverbs, the final position is common. However, the initial position is also possible, for example, '**In the village** he lives.'

The larger place comes after the smaller one :

Many people eat **in restaurant (smaller) in London (larger)**.

The larger place can be moved to the initial position:

In London many people eat **in restaurants**.

Place information in Thai is expressed by prepositional phrases which come before the nouns such as /**bon toh**/ 'on the table', /**nai hawng**/ 'in the room', /**thi ban**/ 'at home.' Considering the structure, adverbs of place in Thai are similar to the prepositional phrases in English.

Prepositions in Thai which are given below appear in place adverbials.

/bon/	‘on’
/nai/	‘in’
/na/	‘in front of’
/lang/	‘behind’
/thi/	‘at’
/khang/	‘by’
/thaew/	‘around’
/kla:ng/	‘in the middle of’
/tai/	‘under’
/ja:k/	‘from’
/ta:m/	‘along’
/nuea/	‘over, above’

Like time adverbial phrases, place adverbial phrases (in italics) are moveable. They may appear at the beginning or at the end of a sentence.

/maew nawn *bon toh/*
cat sleep on table
‘The cat sleeps on the table.’

/bon toh mi: nanguse/
on table have book
‘On the table there is a book.’

/dekdek nawn nai hawg/
 child sleep in room
 ‘Children sleep in the room.’

/dern trong ta:m thanon/
 walk straight along road
 ‘Walk straight along the road.’

/nai mu:ban khao yu:/
 in village he live
 ‘In the village he lives.’

Place and time adverbs in Thai can co-occur. Like in English, a place adverb in Thai comes before an adverb of time.

/khao thamnga:n nai hawng wannil
 he work in room today
 ‘He works in the room today.’

Considering the sentences provided, it is apparent that the position of the place adverbial phrases in both English and Thai is similar.

4..2.5 Miscellaneous

In addition to the adverbs so far illustrated, Thai has the adverb which has the unique characteristics. The adverb in question is categorized as ‘**miscellaneous**’ because it does not belong to any main type. The miscellaneous adverbs must appear at the end of a sentence only (Iwasaki, 2005: 105).

Common miscellaneous adverbs are listed below:

/eng/	‘by itself’
/i:k/	‘again’
/kawn/	‘before, first’
/duay/	‘as well’
/mueankan/	‘as well’
/b'ang/	‘some, any’
/m'ang/	(a colloquial variant) ‘some, any’
/lueakern/	‘far too much’
/pai/	‘too much’
/mang/	‘possibly’
/awk/	‘so, very’

Miscellaneous adverbs are illustrated in the following example:

/khao ya:k kin i:k/

He want eat again

‘He wants to eat again.’

/phuakrao tong rerm kawn/

we have to start first

‘We have to start first.’

/khun khuan phakphawn bang/
you should rest some
'You should have some rest.'

/phom ya:k longdu: mueankan/
i want try as well
'I want to try it as well.'

/krueang yut eng/
machine stop itself
'The machine stops by itself.'



/khao kin ma:k lueakern/
he eat very too much
'He eats far too much.'

/man paeng pai/
it expensive too much
'It is too expensive.'

/lom raeng awk/
wind strong very
'The wind is very strong.'

/khao nawn mang/
he sleep perhaps
'He sleeps, perhaps.'

4.2.6 Adverbs Modifying Adjectives

Thai adverbs come after the adjectives. In contrast, the adverbs in English precedes the adjectives, for example:

It is **easily** accessible.

The adverb '**easily**' pre-modifies the adjective '**accessible**.'

In Thai the adverb always follows the adjective. The adverbs which post-modify the adjectives are the intensifiers /ma:k/ 'very', /ma:k ma:k/ 'very much', /thi:diew/ 'quite', /yang sin cherng/ 'entirely, totally', /yingnak/ 'really', /kern pai/ 'too much'.

/khamtha:m ngai ma:k/
question easy very
'The question is very easy.'

/man yao ma:k/
it long very
'It is very long.'

/khao nueay nitnoi/
he tire a little
'He is little tired.'

/man samkan thi:diew/
It important quite
'It is quite important.'

/khun phit *yang sin cherng/*
you wrong totally
'You are totally wrong.'

/ther suay *yingnak/*
she beautiful really
'She is really beautiful.'

/a:ha:n paeng *kernpai/*
food expensive too much
'The food is too expensive.'

There is one exception. The adverb /khonkang/ 'rather' comes before the adjective.

/man *khonkang* *ya:k/*
It rather difficult
'It is rather difficult.'

/khao *khonkang* *chala:t/*
he rather clever
'He is rather clever.'

4.2.7 Comparison

In English, adverbs can be used in comparison by using **as + adverb + as**

He speaks *as fluently as* you.

Most comparative and superlative adverbs are made with ‘**more**’ ‘**less**’ and ‘**most**.’

They could finish *more quickly*.

They work *less effectively than* you.

I work *most efficiently* in the early morning.

Adverbs that have the same forms as adjectives have comparatives and superlatives with –er and –est. They are: *fast, early, long, soon, late*.

Could you speak *louder*?

Can you come *earlier*?

He studies *harder than* I.

Thai does not have morphological markings or changes. Comparisons are expressed by the words /khwa/ ‘than’, /muean/ ‘same’, /thisut/ ‘most’ which come before the noun being compared or appear as the last element of the sentence:

/khao phu:t chat *khwa* khun/

he speak clear than you

‘He speaks more clearly than you.’

/khao thamnga:n rew muean khun/
he work quick same you
'He works as quickly as you.'

/khao phu:t klong muean khun/
he speak fluent same you
'He speaks as fluently as you.'

/phom chawp beer thisut/
I like beer SPR
'I like beer the most.'