

Hopefully

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“Hopefully” is an adverb. What is the role of an adverb? To say something more about a verb, or how something is done. Some examples:

- Mr. Morales quickly drank the glass of English real ale (real ale means “cerveza de barril traditional”).
- Mr. Rajoy carefully listened to Mrs. May’s speech about Brexit.

Easy? Yes. What about these sentences:

- Hopefully, Julia will pass the Cambridge Advanced exam.
- Hopefully, it will not rain today.

You are likely to have heard or seen such sentences. **They are incorrect.** Where is the verb that connects with “hopefully”? The verb cannot be “pass” as you cannot pass an exam “hopefully”, that is, in a hopeful manner. How can “rain” be done “hopefully”?

What people should say could be one of the following:

- It is hoped that Julia passes the Cambridge Advanced exam.
- I hope that Julia passes the Cambridge Advanced exam.
- I hope it does not rain today.

Here are some more correct uses of hopefully:

- He smiled at me hopefully (me dirigió una sonrisa esperanzada).
- Mr. Morales looked hopefully around the airport for his luggage (...miró por el aeropuerto con esperanzas de ver su equipaje).

The incorrect usage of hopefully is an American influence, a country not known for good grammar.