

Grammar and Style Tips: “Only”

Red flag: *only*

Put *only* closest to the word or words it precisely modifies.

Only Jules misplaced his cellphone yesterday.

Jules only misplaced his cellphone yesterday.

Jules misplaced his only cellphone yesterday.

Jules misplaced his cellphone only yesterday.

Red flag: *just, even*

Put *just* and *even* closest to the word or words they precisely modify.

Natasha went out with just her coat on.

Natasha just went out with her coat on.

Just Natasha went out with her coat on.

The truck costs only \$500.

He works even during his vacation.