

# Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time passed very quickly.
- Two people were seriously injured in the accident.

Quickly and seriously are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are formed from an adjective + *-ly*:

<i>adjective:</i>	quick	serious	careful	quiet	heavy	bad
<i>adverb:</i>	quickly	seriously	carefully	quietly	heavily	badly

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in *-ly* are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in *-ly* too, for example:

friendly   lively   elderly   lonely   silly   lovely

B

Adjective or adverb?

Adjectives (*quick/careful* etc.) tell us about a *noun* (somebody or something). We use adjectives before nouns:

- Sam is a careful driver.  
(*not* a carefully driver)
- We didn't go out because of the heavy rain.

Adverbs (*quickly/carefully* etc.) tell us about a *verb* (*how* somebody does something or *how* something happens):

- Sam drove carefully along the narrow road. (*not* drove careful)
- We didn't go out because it was raining heavily. (*not* raining heavy)

Compare:

- She speaks perfect English.  
*adjective + noun*

- She speaks English perfectly.  
*verb + noun + adverb*

We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially *be*, and also *look/feel/sound* etc.

Compare:

- Please be quiet.
- I was disappointed that my exam results were so bad.
- Why do you always look so serious?
- I feel happy.

- Please speak quietly.
- I was unhappy that I did so badly in the exam. (*not* did so bad)
- Why do you never take me seriously?
- The children were playing happily.

C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

reasonably cheap	( <i>adverb + adjective</i> )
terribly sorry	( <i>adverb + adjective</i> )
incredibly quickly	( <i>adverb + adverb</i> )

- It's a reasonably cheap restaurant and the food is extremely good.
- I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* terrible sorry)
- Maria learns languages incredibly quickly.
- The examination was surprisingly easy.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (*injured/organised/written* etc.):

- Two people were seriously injured in the accident. (*not* serious injured)
- The meeting was very badly organised.

### 100.1 Complete each sentence with an adverb. The first letters of the adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining heavily.
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very badly.
- 3 I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite easily.
- 4 We had to wait for a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited patiently.
- 5 Nobody knew Steve was coming to see us. He arrived unexpectedly.
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis regularly.
- 7 I don't speak French very well, but I can understand perfectly if people speak slowly and clearly.

### 100.2 Put in the correct word.

- 1 Two people were seriously injured in the accident. (serious / seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had serious injuries. (serious / seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very selfishly. (selfish / selfishly)
- 4 Rose is terribly upset about losing her job. (terrible / terribly)
- 5 There was a sudden change in the weather. (sudden / suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the party was colourfully dressed. (colourful / colourfully)
- 7 Linda likes wearing colourful clothes. (colourful / colourfully)
- 8 Liz fell and hurt herself quite badly. (bad / badly)
- 9 Joe says he didn't do well at school because he was badly taught. (bad / badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look safe. (safe / safely)

### 100.3 Complete each sentence using a word from the box. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

careful(ly)	complete(ly)	continuous(ly)	financial(ly)	fluent(ly)
happy/happily	nervous(ly)	perfect(ly)	<del>quick(ly)</del>	special(ly)

- 1 Our holiday was too short. The time passed very quickly.
- 2 Steve doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always careful.
- 3 Sue works happily. She never seems to stop.
- 4 Rachel and Patrick are very happily married.
- 5 Maria's English is very nervous although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 6 I cooked this meal perfectly for you, so I hope you like it.
- 7 Everything was very quiet. There was complete silence.
- 8 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me perfectly.
- 9 Do you usually feel nervous before examinations?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car, but it's financially impossible for me at the moment.

### 100.4 Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

absolutely	badly	completely	changed	<del>cheap</del>	damaged
<del>reasonably</del>	seriously	slightly	enormous	ill	long
unnecessarily	unusually		planned	quiet	

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive, but it was reasonably cheap.
- 2 Steve's mother is seriously ill in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's completely enormous.
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only slightly damaged.
- 5 The children are normally very lively, but they're unusually quiet today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had completely changed.
- 7 The film was planned to be long. It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was absolutely terrible.

Adjectives and adverbs 2  
(well/fast/late, hard/hardly)

## A

## Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is well:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You speak English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (*not* good) with *past participles* (dressed/known etc.):

- well-dressed    well-known    well-educated    well-paid
- Gary's father is a **well-known** writer.

But **well** is also an adjective with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.'

## B

## Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i>  | <i>adverb</i>  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darren is a very <b>fast</b> runner. | Darren can <b>run</b> very <b>fast</b> .                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kate is a <b>hard</b> worker.        | Kate <b>works</b> <b>hard</b> . ( <i>not</i> works <b>hardly</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I was <b>late</b> .                  | I <b>got up</b> <b>late</b> this morning.                          |

**Lately** = recently:

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

## C

## Hardly

**Hardly** = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah wasn't very friendly at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me.  
(= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- We've only met once or twice. We **hardly** know each other.

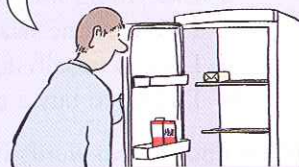
**Hard** and **hardly** are different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job, but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried to find one. (= he tried very little)

You can use **hardly** + *any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere*:

- A: How much money have we got?  
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- These two cameras are very similar. There's **hardly any** difference between them.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed)

There's **hardly anything** in the fridge.



Note that you can say:

- She said **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** said **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** money. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** money.

I **can hardly** do something = it's very difficult for me, almost impossible:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible to read it)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

**Hardly ever** = almost never:

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.

**Hardly** also means 'certainly not'. For example:

- It's **hardly surprising** that you're tired. You haven't slept for three days.  
(= it's certainly not surprising)
- The situation is serious, but it's **hardly a crisis**. (= it's certainly not a crisis)

101.1 Put in good or well.

- 1 I play tennis but I'm not very good .
- 2 Your exam results were very .....
- 3 You did ..... in your exams.
- 4 The weather was ..... while we were on holiday.
- 5 I didn't sleep ..... last night.
- 6 How are you? Are you ..... ?
- 7 Lucy speaks German very .....
- 8 Lucy's German is very .....
- 9 Our new business isn't doing very ..... at the moment.
- 10 I like your hat. It looks ..... on you.
- 11 I've met her a few times, but I don't know her .....

101.2 Complete these sentences using well + the following words:

~~behaved~~ dressed informed kept known paid written

- 1 The children were very good. They were well-behaved .
- 2 I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite .....
- 3 Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very .....
- 4 I enjoyed the book you lent me. It's a great story and it's very .....
- 5 Tania knows a lot about many things. She is very .....
- 6 Mark's clothes are always smart. He is always .....
- 7 Jane has a lot of responsibility in her job, but she isn't very .....

101.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I'm tired because I've been working hard. OK
- 2 I tried hard to remember her name, but I couldn't. ....
- 3 This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it. ....
- 4 Judy is a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly. ....
- 5 Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you. ....
- 6 I had plenty of time, so I was walking slow. ....

101.4 Complete the sentences. Use hardly + the following verbs (in the correct form):

change hear ~~know~~ recognise say sleep speak

- 1 Scott and Tracy have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- 2 You're speaking very quietly. I can ..... you.
- 3 I'm very tired this morning. I ..... last night.
- 4 We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could .....
- 5 Kate was very quiet this evening. She ..... a word.
- 6 You look the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've .....
- 7 I met Dave a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time and he looks very different now. I ..... him.

101.5 Complete these sentences with hardly + any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever.

- 1 I'll have to go shopping. There's hardly anything to eat.
- 2 It was a very warm day and there was ..... wind.
- 3 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No, .....'
- 4 The hotel was almost empty. There was ..... staying there.
- 5 I listen to the radio quite often, but I ..... watch television.
- 6 Our new boss is not very popular. .... likes her.
- 7 It was very crowded in the room. There was ..... to sit.
- 8 We used to be good friends, but we ..... see each other now.
- 9 It was nice driving this morning. There was ..... traffic.
- 10 I hate this town. There's ..... to do and ..... to go.