

# 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*:

*adjective:* quick    serious    careful    quiet    heavy    bad  
*adverb:* 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                    (*adverb + adjective*)  
**terribly** sorry                        (*adverb + adjective*)  
**incredibly** quickly                (*adverb + adverb*)

- 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.

- We didn't go out because it was raining heavily.
- Our team lost the game because we played very badly.
- I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite easily.
- We had to wait for a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited patiently.
- Nobody knew Steve was coming to see us. He arrived unexpectedly.
- Mike keeps fit by playing tennis regularly.
- 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.

- Two people were seriously injured in the accident. (serious / seriously)
- The driver of the car had serious injuries. (serious / seriously)
- I think you behaved very selfishly. (selfish / selfishly)
- Rose is terribly upset about losing her job. (terrible / terribly)
- There was a sudden change in the weather. (sudden / suddenly)
- Everybody at the party was colourfully dressed. (colourful / colourfully)
- Linda likes wearing colourful clothes. (colourful / colourfully)
- Liz fell and hurt herself quite badly. (bad / badly)
- Joe says he didn't do well at school because he was badly taught. (bad / badly)
- 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)

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

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

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

# Exercises

# Unit 101

## 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.

- 5 the next few days
- 6 the first three questions (in the exam)
- 7 the next two years
- 8 the last three days of our holiday

### UNIT 100

#### 100.1

- 2 badly
- 3 easily
- 4 patiently
- 5 unexpectedly
- 6 regularly
- 7 perfectly ... slowly ... clearly

#### 100.2

- 3 selfishly
- 4 terribly
- 5 sudden
- 6 colourfully
- 7 colourful
- 8 badly
- 9 badly
- 10 safe

#### 100.3

- 2 careful
- 3 continuously
- 4 happily
- 5 fluent
- 6 specially
- 7 complete
- 8 perfectly
- 9 nervous
- 10 financially *or* completely

#### 100.4

- 2 seriously ill
- 3 absolutely enormous
- 4 slightly damaged
- 5 unusually quiet
- 6 completely changed
- 7 unnecessarily long
- 8 badly planned

### UNIT 101

#### 101.1

- 2 good
- 3 well
- 4 good
- 5 well
- 6 well (*good is also possible here*)
- 7 well
- 8 good
- 9 well
- 10 good
- 11 well

#### 101.2

- 2 well-known
- 3 well-kept
- 4 well-written
- 5 well-informed
- 6 well-dressed
- 7 well-paid

#### 101.3

- 2 OK
- 3 OK
- 4 hard
- 5 OK
- 6 slowly

#### 101.4

- 2 hardly hear
- 3 hardly slept
- 4 hardly speak
- 5 hardly said
- 6 hardly changed
- 7 hardly recognised

#### 101.5

- 2 hardly any
- 3 hardly anything
- 4 hardly anybody/anyone
- 5 hardly ever
- 6 Hardly anybody/anyone
- 7 hardly anywhere
- 8 hardly *or* hardly ever
- 9 hardly any
- 10 hardly anything ... hardly anywhere

### UNIT 102

#### 102.1

- 4 so
- 5 so
- 6 such a
- 7 so
- 8 such
- 9 such a
- 10 such a
- 11 so
- 12 so ... such
- 13 so
- 14 such a
- 15 such a

#### 102.2

- 3 I was so tired (that) I couldn't keep my eyes open.
- 4 We had such a good time on holiday (that) we didn't want to come home.
- 5 She speaks English so well (that) you would think it was her native language. *or* She speaks such good English (that) ...
- 6 I've got such a lot to do (that) I don't know where to begin. *or* I've got so much to do (that) ...
- 7 The music was so loud (that) you could hear it from miles away.
- 8 I had such a big breakfast (that) I didn't eat anything else for the rest of the day.
- 9 It was such horrible weather (that) we spent the whole day indoors.
- 10 I was so surprised (that) I didn't know what to say.

#### 102.3

*Example answers:*

- 2 a She's so friendly.  
b She's such a nice person.
- 3 a It's so lively.  
b It's such an exciting place.
- 4 a It's so exhausting.  
b It's such a difficult job.
- 5 a I haven't seen you for so long.  
b I haven't seen you for such a long time.

### UNIT 103

#### 103.1

- 3 enough money
- 4 enough milk
- 5 warm enough
- 6 enough room
- 7 well enough
- 8 enough time
- 9 enough qualifications
- 10 big enough
- 11 enough cups

#### 103.2

- 2 too busy to talk
- 3 too late to go
- 4 warm enough to sit
- 5 too shy to be
- 6 enough patience to be
- 7 too far away to hear
- 8 enough English to read

#### 103.3

- 2 This coffee is too hot to drink.
- 3 The piano was too heavy to move.
- 4 These apples aren't / are not ripe enough to eat.
- 5 The situation is too complicated to explain.
- 6 The wall was too high to climb over.
- 7 This sofa isn't / is not big enough for three people (to sit on).
- 8 Some things are too small to see without a microscope.

### UNIT 104

#### 104.1

- 2 quite hungry
- 3 Quite good
- 4 quite often
- 5 quite noisy
- 6 quite surprised
- 7 quite late
- 8 quite old

#### 104.2

- 2 quite a good voice
- 3 quite a long way
- 4 quite a strong wind
- 5 quite a lot of traffic
- 6 quite a busy day
- 7 quite a nice time