

Objective 4: Intensifiers (fairly/quite/rather/so/too/very/extremely/a bit/a little)

An intensifier is an adverb which is used with adjectives and adverbs, but which is not usually used with verbs.

We say it modifies the adjective or adverb which means it makes the meaning stronger or weaker.

The following words are commonly used as intensifiers: fairly, quite, rather, so, too, very. The intensifier comes before the adjective or adverb it describes ("The music was *very loud*"). 'Very' and 'extremely' make the meaning of an adjective or adverb stronger. 'Rather', 'pretty', 'fairly' and 'quite' make it a little bit stronger.

'A bit' and 'a little' make it weaker.

I am *very* happy.
The film was *quite* good. You did that *rather* well.
Must you leave *so* soon?

In these examples, *very* modifies the adjective *happy*, *quite* modifies the adjective *good*, *rather* modifies the adverb *well*, and *so* modifies the adverb *soon*.

Objective 4: Intensifiers - Practice

1 I usually have lots of energy but I am _____ tired right now.

a-even

b-much

c-not so

d-really

2-It is _____ common for Emirati students to study at university.

a- only

b-ever

c-fairly

d-anything

3- I love your shirt! Yes, I'm _____ pleased with it myself.

a-rather

b-even

c-enough

d-much

4- Her voice is ____ beautiful. Do you think so? I think she sounds awful.

a- ever

b horrible

c-any

d-very