

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

A good and well

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

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

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

well-known well-educated well-paid well-behaved

- ☐ Sophie's father is a **well-known** writer.

Well is also an adjective meaning 'in good health':

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

B fast, hard and late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i> | <i>adverb</i> |
|--|--|
| ☐ Darren is a fast runner. | Darren can run fast . |
| ☐ It's hard to find a job right now. | Kate works hard . (<i>not</i> works hardly) |
| ☐ Sorry I'm late . | I got up late . |

lately = recently:

- ☐ Have you seen Kate **lately**?

C hardly

hardly = very little, almost not:

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

Compare **hard** and **hardly**:

- ☐ 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. (= he tried very little)

Hardly goes before the verb:

- ☐ We **hardly** **know** each other. (*not* We know each other hardly)

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. I **could hardly** walk.

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

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

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)

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



Exercises

101.1 Put in **good** or **well**.

- I play tennis but I'm not very good.
- Joe's exam results were very
- Joe did in his exams.
- I didn't sleep last night.
- I like your hat. It looks on you.
- Can you speak up? I can't hear you very
- I've met her a few times, but I don't know her
- Lucy speaks German She's at languages.

101.2 Complete these sentences using **well** + the following words:

behaved informed kept known paid written

- The children were very good. They were well-behaved.
- I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite
- Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very
- I enjoyed the book. It's a great story and it's very
- Tanya knows about everything. She is very
- Jane works very hard in her job, but she isn't very

101.3 Which is right?

- I'm tired because I've been working hard / hardly. (hard is correct)
- I wasn't in a hurry, so I was walking slow / slowly.
- I haven't been to the cinema late / lately.
- Slow down! You're walking too fast / quick for me.
- I tried hard / hardly to remember her name, but I couldn't.
- This coat is practically unused. I've hard / hardly worn it.
- Laura is a good tennis player. She hits the ball very hard / hardly.
- It's really dark in here. I can hardly see / see hardly.
- Ben is going to run a marathon. He's been training hard / hardly.

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

change hear know recognise say sleep speak

- Scott and Tracy have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- You're speaking very quietly. I can you.
- I don't feel good this morning. I last night.
- We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could
- Kate was very quiet this evening. She anything.
- Gary looks just like he looked 15 years ago. He has
- David looked different without his beard. I him.

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

- I'll have to go shopping. There's hardly anything to eat.
- It was a very warm day and there was wind.
- 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No,'
- The hotel was almost empty. There was staying there.
- I listen to the radio a lot, but I watch TV.
- It was very crowded in the room. There was to sit.
- We used to be good friends, but we see each other now.
- We invited lots of people to the party, but came.
- It didn't take us long to drive there. There was traffic.
- There isn't much to do in this town. There's to go.