Theme 1:



INTENSIFIERS: We use words like very, really and extremely to make adjectives stronger:

- It's a very interesting story.
- It's a really interesting story.
- Everyone was extremely excited.

Other intensifiers are: amazingly, exceptionally, incredibly, particularly, remarkably, unusually

We also use enough to say more about an adjective, but enough comes after its adjective:

- If you are eighteen, you are old enough to drive a car.
- I can't wear those shoes. They're not big enough.

INTENSIFIERS WITH STRONG ADJECTIVES. Strong adjectives are words like:

- very big ⇨ enormous, huge
- very small ⇨ tiny
- very clever ⇨ brilliant
- very bad ⇨ awful, terrible, disgusting, dreadful
- very sure ⇨ certain
- very good ⇨ excellent, perfect, ideal, wonderful, splendid
- very tasty ⇨ delicious

We do not normally use very with these adjectives. We do not say something is ~~very enormous~~ or someone is ~~very brilliant~~.

With strong adjectives, we normally use intensifiers like:
absolutely, completely, exceptionally, particularly, really, quite, pretty, totally, utterly

- The film was absolutely awful.
- He was an exceptionally brilliant child.
- The food smelled really disgusting.

INTENSIFIERS WITH PARTICULAR ADJECTIVES. Some intensifiers go with particular adjectives depending on the meaning of the adjective:

- I'm afraid your wife is dangerously ill.
- The car was seriously damaged.
- Fortunately none of the passengers was seriously hurt.

Some intensifiers go with particular adjectives. For example, we use the intensifier highly with the adjectives successful, intelligent, likely and unlikely:

- He was highly intelligent.
- She's a highly successful businesswoman.

We do NOT say: We had a ~~highly tasty~~ meal. Or That is a ~~highly good~~ idea.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

We use the intensifier bitterly with the adjectives disappointed, unhappy and cold:

- I was bitterly unhappy at school.
- We were bitterly disappointed to lose the match.
- It can get bitterly cold in winter.

Exercise 1: Use the expressions to complete each sentence in the most appropriate way. There are 3 spare ones not to be used.

deeply disappointed / drop-dead gorgeous / seriously damaged / desperately unhappy
gravely ill / universally popular / deliriously happy / highly successful /
firmly committed / keenly observant

1. My mother was a _____ tennis player in her time. She won loads of tournaments.
2. The car was _____ in the accident. It had to be scrapped.
3. Tom was _____ when he heard he'd become a grandfather. He couldn't stop smiling.
4. I was _____ by my team's performance last night. It was terrible.
5. The restaurant was shut down when three people were _____ after eating there.
6. Esther's _____ working at the bank, so she's looking for a new job.
7. In order to be a successful detective, you need to be _____.

INTENSIFIERS WITH COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES.
We use these words and phrases as intensifiers with comparative adjectives:
much, far, a lot, quite a lot, a great deal, a good deal, a good bit, a fair bit

- He is much older than me.
- New York is a lot bigger than Boston.

We use much and far as intensifiers with comparative adjectives in front of a noun:

- France is a much bigger country than Britain.
- He is a far better player than Ronaldo.

We use easily and by far as intensifiers with superlative adjectives:

- The blue whale is easily the biggest animal in the world.
- This car was by far the most expensive.

ADJECTIVES AS INTENSIFIERS
We use some adjectives as intensifiers with nouns:
Absolute, complete, total, perfect, real, utter

- He's a complete idiot.
- They were talking utter nonsense.

We do NOT say: ~~The idiot was complete~~. Or ~~The nonsense they were talking was utter~~.

Source: https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar/intensifiers

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 2: **Choose the correct noun to complete the following sentences.**

friend	fanatic	idiot	fabrication	stranger	nightmare

1. Paul and I have been very close since our schooldays. He's a real _____.
2. I tell you, I've never seen that man before in my life. He's a perfect _____.
3. There's no truth in those newspaper reports whatsoever. They're a total _____.
4. Rosa's got a huge record collection. When it comes to music, she's an absolute _____.
5. I can't believe Harry deleted all those emails. He's a complete _____.
6. Last week was the worst week of my life. It was an utter _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS