



A: I didn't particularly like the other paintings but this one is quite good.

B: Yes, the colours are rather nice. But I don't quite understand what the artist is trying to say. It's confusing me a little.

Presentation

Use qualifiers such as *quite*, *pretty* and *rather* to make adjectives and verbs less strong.

Qualifier + adjective

- *quite, pretty, fairly*

You can use *quite*, *pretty* and *fairly* before both positive and negative adjectives, but it is most common with positive adjectives: *This painting is quite / pretty / fairly good.*

When we use *quite* with *a/an + adjective + noun*, we place it before the article: *It's quite a good painting.*

- *rather*

Rather has a similar meaning to *quite*, but it is slightly stronger: *The colours are rather nice.*

We can place it before the indefinite article or after it: *It's rather a nice painting. / It's a rather nice painting.*

- *not very, not particularly*

Use *not very* and *not particularly* before adjectives to give them the opposite meaning.

It wasn't very good. (= It was bad.)

I wasn't particularly impressed. (= I was unimpressed.)

Qualifier + verb

- *quite, rather, not particularly*

Use *quite* before the verbs *like*, *enjoy*, *understand* and *agree*. We often use *quite* to mean 'a bit':

I quite liked this exhibition. (= but not a lot)

You can use *quite* before the verbs *understand* and *agree* to mean 'completely':

I quite agree with you. (= I completely agree.)

I don't quite understand what the artist is saying. (= I don't completely understand.)

However, we also use *quite + verb* when we are disagreeing with someone or to show surprise with no change in the meaning or strength of the verb.

A: *I think the paintings are rather dull.*

B: *Actually, I quite like them.* (= I like them.)

You can also use *rather* before the verbs *like*, *enjoy* and *hope*: *I rather like this painting.*

We use *not particularly* before verbs like *like*, *enjoy* and *hope* to give them the opposite meaning: *I didn't particularly like the other paintings.* (= I disliked the other paintings.)

- *slightly, a little, a bit*

Use *slightly*, *a little*, *a bit* and *rather* after verbs to mean 'by a small amount': *It's confusing me slightly / a little / a bit.*

Exercises

1 Write the words in the correct order to make sentences. One sentence has two possible answers.

- 1 The good film quite was
- 2 it a was quite film good
- 3 fairly my grades were exam high
- 4 that's nice a dress rather
- 5 I interested wasn't particularly in the subject
- 6 he you quite with agrees
- 7 I don't follow quite you
- 8 Your confusing explanation me slightly is

The film was quite good.

2 Compare the pairs of sentences. Decide if they have the same (or similar) meaning or if they have a different or opposite meaning. Write S (same) or D (different).

- 1 a It's quite a good song.
b The song is fairly good.
- 2 a They weren't very enthusiastic about the film.
b They didn't like the film very much.
- 3 a That's a fairly difficult question to answer.
b That's rather a difficult question to answer.
- 4 a I quite like the book.
b I like the book a lot.
- 5 a They didn't quite understand the grammar.
b They didn't understand any of the grammar.
- 6 a The noise is annoying me slightly.
b The noise is very annoying.

S

3 Choose the correct word. In two sentences, both answers are correct.

- 1 This town is *slightly* / *rather* a nice place to live in.
- 2 I was *a little* / *quite* impressed by her new boyfriend. He's obviously a successful young man.
- 3 There's something about this which is bothering me *a little* / *fairly*.
- 4 This part of town isn't *very* / *particularly* expensive.
- 5 Your outfit is *rather* / *quite* colourful. Did you make it yourself?
- 6 People are talking and it's putting me off *slightly* / *pretty*.
- 7 I didn't find the exhibition *fairly* / *particularly* interesting. I wouldn't bother going to see it.
- 8 A: I thought it was really boring.
B: Actually, I *quite* / *slightly* liked it.

4 Complete these sentences so they are true for you using qualifiers with an adjective or a verb.

- 1 The town I grew up in isn't _____.
- 2 The clothes I'm wearing today are _____.
- 3 The grammar of qualifiers is _____.