



- 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 | The film was quite good. |
| 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 | _____ |

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. | S |
| | 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. | |

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

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

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 _____.