

34 Adverbs of degree



1 Form

	WEAKER	STRONGER
with verbs	<i>a bit a little</i>	<i>a lot (very) much</i>
with adjectives/adverbs	<i>quite fairly</i>	<i>very really extremely</i>
with comparative adjectives	<i>a bit a little</i>	<i>much a lot</i>

2 With verbs

We use *(very) much* and *a lot* to make verbs stronger:

*She loves her children **very much**.*

*Kristin **complains a lot**. (= She often complains.)*

We use *a little* and *a bit* to make verbs weaker:

*I can **play** the piano **a little**. (not very well)*

*It **annoys me a bit**. (= It annoys me but not a lot.)*



We put these adverbs after the verb and object.

~~*X I like very much skiing.*~~ ✓ *I like skiing **very much**.*

3 With adjectives/adverbs

We use *really*, *very* and *extremely* to make adjectives and adverbs stronger:

*Those shoes are **really beautiful**.*

*Diego Maradona was a **very good** footballer.*

*My new car goes **really fast**.*

*She worked **extremely hard** before her exams.*

We can use *fairly* or *quite* to make them weaker:

*That meal was **quite expensive**.*

*My father drives **quite slowly**.*

*I speak Italian **fairly well**.*

4 With comparative adjectives

To describe a big difference between things we use *much* or *a lot*:

*Those shoes are **a lot more expensive** than most shoes.*

*Canada is **much larger** than England.*

To describe a small difference between things we use *a little* or *a bit*:

*Charlotte is **a little taller** than Susie.*

*DVDs are **a bit more expensive** than CDs.*

Practice

1 Match the sentences A–F with the pictures.



0 ...D....



1



2



3



4



5

- A He's a bit taller than his sister. **D** It's quite hot.
 B It's extremely hot. E He exercises a lot.
 C He only exercises a little. F He's much taller than his sister.

2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 0 There was no snow last winter because the weather was quite
 1 The heating isn't turned on so the house is fairly
 2 We stayed in that hotel because it was quite
 3 She didn't buy it because it was really
 4 My Spanish isn't very good; I only speak
 5 I like studying English
- A a lot.
 B expensive.
 C warm.
 D a little.
 E cold.
 F cheap.

3 Write the sentences again with the words in brackets ().

- 0 Cooking is more interesting than cleaning. (much)
Cooking is much more interesting than cleaning.
 1 Some Italian clothes are beautiful. (really)

 2 The silk in the market is expensive. (quite)

 3 Lisa can cook. (a little)

 4 This winter is colder than last winter. (much)

 5 The film was more exciting than the book. (a lot)

 6 That exam was hard. (fairly)

 7 Emelda loves her children. (very much)

 8 We watch action films. (a lot)

4 Change the underlined phrases so the sentences are true for you.

- 0 I am ^{a lot taller} a bit shorter than my mother.
 1 My country is a little smaller than Scotland.
 2 I am much older than my best friend.
 3 In my country, going to the cinema is extremely expensive.
 4 My home town is fairly small.
 5 The winter is quite warm in my country.