

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.

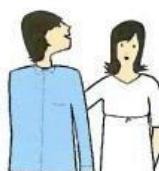
To describe a small difference between things we use *a little* or *a bit*:

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 bit taller 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.