UNIT 15

Grammar

Adjectives and adverbs

Position of adjectives

Before a noun	*I love your* ***new house****.*
After verbs such as *appear, be, become, feel, get, grow, look, seem, smell, sound, taste* and *turn*	*The material this dress is made out of* ***feels rough****.*

Watch out!

- The verbs in the table above are not normally followed by adverbs. However, some of them can be followed by adverbs when the verb refers to an action.
  ✓ *She* ***looked angrily*** *at the man behind the counter.*
- After *as, how, so, this* (= so), *that* (= so) and too, adjectives come before the article.
  ✓ *I could never live in* ***as crowded a city*** *as Tokyo.* ✓ *Tokyo's* ***so/that crowded a city*** *that I'd hate to live there.*
  ✓ ***How crowded a city*** *is Tokyo?* ✓ *I could never live in Tokyo – it's* ***too crowded a city****.*
- Some adjectives only appear after a verb and not before a noun. These include adjectives beginning with *a-*, such as *afraid, aghast, alike, alive, alone, asleep, awake*, etc
  ✓ *A boy was* ***asleep*** *in the street.* ✗ ~~*There was an* ***asleep*** *boy in the street.*~~

Position of multiple adjectives

When more than one adjective is used before a noun, they usually appear in the following order, sometimes separated by commas: judgement, size, shape, colour, origin, material, purpose	*We've got a* ***lovely little wooden*** *cabin in the mountains.* *I love your* ***long, red, Chinese, silk*** *curtains.* *What you need for your living room is a* ***large oak dining*** *table.*

Adjectives used as nouns

To refer to members of a general social group	*We need to provide better housing for* ***the poor****.*
To refer to members of a specific group	*When the building collapsed,* ***the injured*** *were rushed to hospital.*
To refer to some nationalities	***The French*** *have introduced new housing regulations in Paris.*

Position of adverbs

There are three places in a clause where an adverb (or adverbial phrase) might appear: at the beginning, at the end and with the verb. Different kinds of adverb go in different positions, and some may go in more than one position.

Adverbs do not normally appear between a verb and its direct object.	✗ ~~*They built* ***very quickly*** *the house.*~~ ✓ *They built the house* ***very quickly****.*
With verbs formed using auxiliary verbs, the adverb normally follows the (first) auxiliary.	✓ *The town* ***has always been*** *popular with tourists.* ✓ *Our house* ***will probably have been decorated*** *by the time you get there.*
Adverbs of frequency (*always, often*, etc) follow auxiliary verbs and *be* and come before other verbs.	✓ *I'****m rarely*** *in the city centre.* ✓ *I* ***rarely go*** *to the city centre.*
Connecting adverbs usually go at the beginning of a clause.	✓ *We bought it as an investment;* ***then****, all the property prices in the area fell.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Comparisons

Comparative: to compare things or people that are different	*Your flat is much **bigger** and **more comfortable** than ours.*
Superlative: to compare one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	*Mexico City is probably my **least favourite** city.* *I think my home town is the **best** place in the world.*

Comparative and superlative modifiers

Modifiers with comparatives: *(quite) a bit, a great deal, a good deal, a little, (quite) a lot, any, considerably, even, far, just, little, much, no, slightly, somewhat*	*This area has become **considerably** more crowded and **far** noisier in the last ten years.*
Modifiers with superlatives: *by far, far and away, easily, far from, much, quite*	*If you ask me, Ladybridge is **easily** the nicest area of town to live in.*

Structures used to make comparisons

(nearly/almost/just/half/twice/easily/etc) as ... as	*Platinum is about **twice as** expensive **as** gold.*
not (nearly/quite) as/so ... as	*Iron is**n't nearly as** hard **as** diamond.*
nothing like as ... as / nowhere near as ... as	*Iron is **nothing like as / nowhere near as** hard **as** diamond.*
the ... , the ...	***The taller** the building, **the greater** the fire risk.*

Watch out!

✓ *Paper **is not nearly as** strong **as** plastic.* (large difference between the things being referred to)
✓ *Gold **is not quite as** valuable **as** it was last month.* (small difference between the things being referred to)

Gradable and ungradable adjectives

Ungradable adjectives describe qualities which are extreme and which cannot be 'more' or 'less', eg *amazing, dead, exhausted, fantastic, helpless, impossible, incredible, necessary, perfect, pointless, right, splendid, unacceptable, wonderful, wrong,* etc. Other adjectives are **gradable**.

Modifiers with ungradable adjectives: *absolutely, completely, quite, totally, utterly,* etc	*After working on the building site all day, Tim was **absolutely exhausted**.*
Modifiers with gradable adjectives: *a bit, a little, fairly, quite, really, too, very,* etc	*Pete was **a bit tired** after working on the building site all day, but it wasn't too bad.*

Watch out!

When *quite* is used with gradable adjectives, it means 'rather, fairly'. When *quite* is used with ungradable adjectives, it means 'absolutely, completely'.

✓ *Our flat's **quite** nice, but not perfect.*
✓ *I love your flat! The balconies are **quite** splendid!*

Confusing cases

Some words have the same form as an adjective and as an adverb and some also form adjectives with *-ly*. The different forms can have different meanings. These include:

fair / fairly	*free / freely*	*late / lately*	*short / shortly*	*fast*	*hard / hardly*	*near / nearly*
straight	*fine / finely*	*high / highly*	*right / rightly*	*well*	*wide / widely*	

✓ *Sandstone is not a very **hard** material.*
✓ *I could **hardly** hear the music.*
✓ *Hit it too **hard** and you'll break it.*
✗ ~~*Hit it too **hardly** and you'll break it.*~~

Watch out!

Some adjectives end in *–ly*, eg *costly, deadly, friendly, likely, lively, lonely, lovely.*
They do not form adverbs, but we often use a phrase such as *in a ... way* to describe how something is done.

✓ *She looked at me **in a very friendly way**.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A If the word in bold is correct, put a tick. If it is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

1 Whenever she gets home from work, Mum always seems **unhappily** about something. .....
2 I don't know what's in it, but it smells **strongly** of cinnamon. .....
3 When Terry finally became **calmly**, I asked him what had happened. .....
4 I'm glad I didn't go on holiday with Efy and Graham because it sounded **dreadfully**. .....
5 It's hard to believe that the seeds you planted have grown so **quickly**. .....
6 The car sped past me and turned **sharply** into the next street. .....
7 The actors could tell that the audience were growing **restlessly**. .....
8 Why are you looking so **accusingly** at me? .....
9 Add some chilli to the curry because it doesn't taste **spicily** enough. .....
10 I don't think I get **angrily** very often, but one or two people do really annoy me. .....
11 In the darkness, I felt **nervously** for the light switch and finally found it. .....
12 Tim appeared **tiredly** after his tennis match. .....

B Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Add any other words you need.

1 I haven't had this ..... at work for a long time. (**day**, **hard**)
2 So ..... was it that I never went back to that country again. (**experience**, **frightening**)
3 If we'd known how ..... it was going to be, we wouldn't have agreed to do it. (**difficult**, **task**)
4 It was as ..... as I'd seen in a long time. (**moving**, **performance**)
5 Alex has got that ..... he never seems to have to work hard at school. (**good**, **memory**)
6 It was too ..... to turn down. (**offer**, **tempting**)
7 No matter how ..... you have, there's always the risk of failure. (**career**, **successful**)
8 I don't think I'll ever be as ..... as my brother. (**good**, **pianist**)

C Complete the sentences using the words in bold in the correct order.

1 Oh, what a/an ..... sculpture! Did you buy it when you were there? (**African**, **gorgeous**, **little**)
2 Have you seen my ..... boots anywhere? I'm sure I left them here. (**black**, **climbing**, **leather**)
3 They've got some ..... shoes in the sale at Derbyshire's. (**ballet**, **fantastic**, **pink**, **Russian**, **silk**)
4 Didn't the bride look lovely in that ..... dress? (**beautiful**, **cotton**, **cream**, **wedding**)
5 Does Spencer still drive that ..... car of his? (**blue**, **foreign**, **ugly**)
6 It's hard to imagine that such a ..... frog is so important to the local environment. (**Amazonian**, **green**, **tiny**)
7 Andrea has a ..... rug on the floor in her bedroom. (**long**, **lovely**, **sheepskin**, **white**)
8 The clown was wearing a ..... wig and a red nose. (**funny**, **plastic**, **red**)
9 I couldn't believe it when Sylvia turned up in the same ..... hat that she wore last time. (**horrible**, **wide**, **yellow**)
10 When are you going to get rid of those ..... trousers? (**dreadful**, **French**, **nylon**, **short**)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D **Circle the best position for each adverb in bold. There may be more than one answer.**

THE MILLENNIUM DOME

1 The Millennium Dome, or the O_2 as (**A**) it (**B**) is (**C**) called (**D**) now that the mobile company of that name owns the naming rights, has become a distinctive part of the London skyline. (**correctly**)

2 It was built for the millennium celebrations of 2000, and (**A**) a number of people (**B**) criticised (**C**) the high cost of construction (**D**). (**strongly**)

3 Costing £789 million to build and operate for a year, (**A**) it (**B**) failed (**C**) to reach (**D**) its target of 12 million visitors. (**completely**)

4 Even Michael Heseltine, the politician who was originally in charge of the Dome, later admitted that (**A**) it (**B**) would (**C**) have been (**D**) better to build something else. (**probably**)

5 Although the press were critical, (**A**) people who visited the Dome (**B**) had (**C**) a positive experience (**D**). (**often**)

6 Even with low visitor numbers, (**A**) it (**B**) was (**C**) the most popular attraction in Britain in 2000 (**D**). (**easily**)

7 Although (**A**) it (**B**) is (**C**) closed (**D**), the Dome has a bright future as a venue for pop concerts and other

E **Complete with an appropriate comparative or superlative form of the words in the box. Add any other words you need.**

demanding • few • funny • hard • long • observant • reliable • slight • ugly • valuable

1 I thought this week's programme was far ..... last week's, so it's definitely improving.
2 My new laptop is ..... my old one, but I suppose it was quite cheap so I shouldn't be surprised.
3 Jim Carter knows what he wants from employees, and I don't think I've ever worked for ..... manager.
4 Because of its internal structure, diamond is ..... substance known.
5 Beside the house, there stood ..... tower block I had ever seen.
6 If the conflict goes on any ..... , more people are going to lose their lives.
7 ..... his *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*, van Gogh's *Irises* still sold for $49 million.
8 Even ..... amongst us soon realise when a friend has changed their appearance in some way.
9 I'm afraid that what you're saying doesn't make ..... difference to how I feel.
10 Frankly, I think ..... people who know about this, the better.

F **Circle the correct word or phrase.**

1 It's good to see that Rebecca has become a great **lot / deal** more independent than she used to be.
2 The hotel was **away / far** from the most luxurious I've stayed in.
3 The new law is **less / little more** than an attempt to divert attention from the real problems.
4 This is **by / from** far the worst public transport system I've ever been on.
5 Have you noticed that the neighbours' trees have grown **easily / considerably** bigger?
6 My mum's getting **a little / little** older now, so she needs someone to look after her.
7 It was **quite / somewhat** the most delightful little puppy I had ever seen!
8 If you have **any / even** further problems with your computer, don't hesitate to call me.
9 I'd say that the woman I saw running away from the bank was **any / no** taller than I am.
10 Imogen was told that she would have to work a **better / good** deal harder than she had been doing.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

G **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.**

1 The red shoes are slightly more expensive than the green ones. **quite**
The green shoes ..... the red ones.

2 Richard is much more committed to the project than Grant seems to be. **like**
Grant seems to be ..... to the project.

3 If you argue about it more, we'll get to Denver later. **the**
The ..... we'll get to Denver.

4 My new MP3 player was twice the price of yours. **expensive**
Your MP3 player was ..... mine.

5 England is much bigger than Wales. **nowhere**
Wales ..... England.

6 Derek is quite a bit more adventurous than his sister, Annabelle. **nearly**
Annabelle ..... her brother, Derek.

7 Bigger cities have higher crime rates. **the**
The ..... the crime rate.

8 Their first album was considerably more successful than their second. **near**
Their second album ..... their first.

H **Underline the word or phrase which cannot complete the sentence.**

1 Jackie didn't like the show so much, but I thought it was **absolutely / quite / very** perfect.
2 You were **completely / fairly / totally** right about Laura – she is from Manchester.
3 We've been **absolutely / a little / quite** busy at work, so I'm looking forward to a break.
4 It's **completely / totally / very** pointless trying to persuade Michael to lend you his new car.
5 Anthony seems to be **a little / really / utterly** worried about the situation.
6 Jackson's shot from the halfway line was **absolutely / quite / too** incredible.
7 If you think I'm going to help you after what you did, you're **a bit / completely / quite** wrong.
8 In the end, the documents that the tax office sent us were **completely / totally / very** useless.

I **Complete using the words in the boxes. You need to use one word in each box twice.**

1 Don't press the keys so ..... or you'll break the keyboard.
2 This is ..... the most attractive part of the city, is it?
3 It's ..... to understand why Isabelle reacted in the way she did.

hard • hardly

4 It's not .....! You never let me go to parties!
5 Divide the money between you ..... .
6 I'm ..... satisfied with your progress.

fair • fairly

7 They're giving away ..... tickets to the concert!
8 This tool moves ..... in any direction.
9 Can we get in ..... if we're members of the club?

free • freely

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10 I'm always uncomfortable in ..... places.
11 This request is ..... unusual.
12 The dog jumped ..... and cleared the fence.

high • highly

J **Write one word in each gap.**

VERTICAL LIVING

In the 1950s and 60s, the tower block seemed to offer a solution to two problems. Firstly, houses built (**1**) ..... earlier in the century, or even in the nineteenth century, were (**2**) ..... longer suitable for people to live in. Secondly, an increasing population placed a great (**3**) ..... more strain on available space. New, vertical tower blocks, able to house more people in a relatively small space (**4**) ..... a horizontal street, started to appear. The more people got used to living in these structures, (**5**) ..... more they would form the heart of communities, or so the thinking went.

Initially, these blocks were (**6**) ..... popular than the old housing they replaced. They were (**7**) ..... and away the (**8**) ..... affordable alternative for many people, and they also offered excellent views.

However, these buildings soon became (**9**) ..... attractive to residents as crime rose. It also became clear that a tower block was (**10**) ..... like as friendly a place to live in (**11**) ..... a traditional street. More often (**12**) ..... not, residents in a tower block didn't interact with each other on a regular basis. Although modern tower blocks are making something of a comeback amongst young professionals, they still have a poor reputation in the minds of many people.

K **Choose the correct answer.**

1 I ..... when Colin asked me to make him a cup of tea.
A had sat hard down
B had sat down hardly
C had hardly sat down
D had hard sat down

2 Where's that ..... dress that your grandma gave you?
A lovely, long, pink, silk
B pink, long, lovely, silk
C lovely, pink, long, silk
D long, pink, silk, lovely

3 Although he ..... to Ernest Hemingway, I think his books are unique.
A often has been compared
B has often been compared
C has often compared
D has been comparing often

4 Don't you think ..... in society have a responsibility to help those less fortunate?
A wealthy
B wealthier
C wealthiest
D the wealthy

5 The rents in this area are ..... the highest in the city.
A far from away
B away by far
C far and away
D far to away

6 The coastguard boarded the ship and found ..... .
A four injured alive men
B alive four men injured
C four injured men alive
D injured four alive men

7 To be honest, Harry has ..... than you have.
A been more helpful considerably
B been considerably more helpful
C been more considerably helpful
D considerably been more helpful

8 I'm ..... my brother is.
A nowhere like so ambitious
B nothing near as ambitious as
C nothing as ambitious than
D nowhere near as ambitious as

LIVEWORKSHEETS