

64 Common adverbs

A Showing that something is important

Adverb	Example	Meaning
only	<i>She was only 17 when she got married. (It's unusual to get married at 17.)</i> <i>We can walk to the station – it's only five minutes. (NOT 15 or 20.)</i>	We use only to say 'no more than'.
even	<i>It's cold here, even in summer. (In most places, it's warm in the summer.)</i> <i>My older brother is 1.90 m, and my younger brother is even taller.</i>	We often use even before a fact that is surprising or difficult to believe, or to make (a comparative) another word stronger.
still	<i>After 25 years, I still love my job. (I continue to love my job.)</i> <i>Do they live in Paris now? ~ No, they're still in London.</i>	We use still to say that a fact or situation continues to be true.
especially	<i>We liked the towns in the south, especially Seville. (Seville was the best.)</i> <i>It's very hot here, especially in July and August. (July and August are the hottest.)</i>	We use especially to say 'more than others'.

1 Underline the correct answer.

- ▶ The food is good there, only / especially the fish.
- 1 He was only / even 15 when he left school.
- 2 I've seen the film five times and I even / still enjoy it.
- 3 The students are very nice, still / especially Marcel.
- 4 There are even / only three bridges like this in the world.
- 5 It was cold yesterday, but it's even / only colder today.
- 6 I study hard, but my English is still / only terrible.

2 Put the word in brackets in the correct place in the sentence.

- ▶ It's six kilometres to the next town. (only) It's only six kilometres to the next town.
- 1 He's 75 and he plays tennis. (still) _____
- 2 It's nice there, in the morning. (especially) _____
- 3 There are three students in the class. (only) _____
- 4 He works on Sundays. (even) _____
- 5 She's at university. (still) _____
- 6 Rio is big, but Sao Paolo is bigger. (even) _____

3 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ He's ninety, but he still _____ drives a car.
- 1 _____ four people came to the party. It was a bit sad.
- 2 They have been in Singapore for ten years and they _____ like living there.
- 3 I love fish, _____ salmon.
- 4 He can't drive – he's _____ 15.
- 5 This question isn't difficult. _____ a child could answer it.
- 6 She enjoyed the book, _____ the first part.
- 7 He lives in Italy now, but he _____ speaks English most of the time.
- 8 The sign was difficult to read, _____ with my glasses.



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B Degree

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a bit / a little

quite/pretty/rather

very

really

extremely

a bit / a little	Use a bit or a little before an adjective or comparative adjective, but not before a positive adjective. (NOT a bit good) <i>The lesson was a bit boring. It's a little warmer than yesterday.</i>
quite pretty inf	= more than <i>a bit</i> , but less than <i>very</i> <i>The film was quite/pretty interesting. The town is quite/pretty big.</i>
rather	= <i>quite</i> <i>The test was rather difficult. She was rather tired after the journey.</i> If you use rather with a positive adjective, you are often surprised and pleased. <i>The restaurant was rather nice.</i>
extremely	= a bit stronger than <i>very</i> . You can use extremely with adjectives, but not with verbs. <i>I was extremely tired by 6 o'clock. We were extremely busy on Saturday.</i>
really	= <i>very, extremely</i> You can use really with adjectives and verbs. <i>The restaurant was really good. The weather was really terrible.</i> <i>We were really tired. I really liked the film.</i>

4 Circle the correct answers. Sometimes both answers are correct.

- ▶ It was quite / *a bit* interesting.
- 1 She's **pretty** / *quite* untidy.
- 2 Her new shoes are **really** / *a bit* wonderful.
- 3 My sister is *a bit* / *a little* untidy.
- 4 I **really** / *extremely* enjoyed the meal.
- 5 She was **really** / *extremely* friendly.
- 6 Tina's flat is *a bit* / *quite* nice.
- 7 The restaurant was *rather* / *really* good.
- 8 The hotel's *a bit* / *really* comfortable.

5 Rewrite the sentences using an adverb with a similar meaning to the underlined words.

- ▶ The film was *a bit* boring. *The film was a little boring.*
- 1 He was *very* good.
- 2 The holiday was *quite* interesting.
- 3 She's *a little* unfriendly.
- 4 The kitchen was *extremely* clean.
- 5 The room was *a bit* small.
- 6 Her new boyfriend is *rather* unfriendly.
- 7 They're *really* nice people.
- 8 The exam results were *quite* surprising.

6 Complete the sentences in a suitable way.

- ▶ I went to bed because I was extremely *tired*.
- 1 The food was excellent, but the service was rather
- 2 I like Maria's new boyfriend. He's extremely
- 3 I went to see a concert last night and I really
- 4 Nobody talked to me at the party, so I felt pretty
- 5 I thought the lesson might be boring, but in fact it was rather
- 6 We waited thirty minutes for the bus, so we arrived a bit
- 7 The dog looked horrible, but in fact it was quite
- 8 People think he's hardworking, but I know he's really



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