

Adverbs of degree are words that modify the intensity of verbs, adjectives or adverbs. They usually come before a verb, adjective or adverb in a sentence. However, there are some exceptions, such as *enough* which usually comes after the verb, adjective or adverb it modifies.

A. Read the sentences and match the adverbs of degree in bold to the type of word that is being modified.

1. I am fairly sure that I've passed the exam.	a. The adverb is modifying an adverb.
2. Sid barely survives on his salary.	b. The adverb is modifying an adjective.
3. Joe sings incredibly well.	c. The adverb is modifying a verb.

B. Match the sentence halves together.

1. The reason John is so thin is that	a. to put on my make-up.
2. I'm almost ready, I just need	b. the buses are rather slow.
3. Luca runs	c. the soup was too salty for me.
4. I'm quite fond of cake	d. so I always add a little sugar.
5. I'm completely exhausted! I.....	e. dentist. I strongly recommend you visit him.
6. I might be a bit late because	f. was absolutely heartbroken when she died.
7. I got a bad mark because I	g. extremely fast.
8. Max is a highly respected	h. he scarcely eats anything.
9. I like my coffee slightly sweet	i. but I prefer biscuits.
10. They were deeply in love. He	j. can hardly keep my eyes open
11. Sam really enjoys maths,	k. didn't study hard enough .
12. The meal was pretty good but	l. even though he finds algebra very difficult.



C. Categorize the adverbs of degree in bold from Exercises A and B, according to their meaning or degree to which they modify a verb, adjective or adverb.

To an insufficient degree	To a small degree	To a moderate / sufficient degree
To a strong / very strong degree	Absolute (used with extreme adjectives)	To a negative degree

D. Underline the correct adverb of degree in each sentence.

1. He is *fairly* / *hardly* good at French. He will never be fluent though.
2. Droughts usually occur in places where it *hardly* / *rather* rains.
3. Pedro *really* / *quite* loves school. He even wishes he had classes at the weekend.
4. I didn't accept the job because the pay was *highly* / *too* low.
5. Although he *scarcely* / *really* studies, he still gets good grades.
6. I *strongly* / *barely* disapprove of his behaviour.
7. Ferraris are *quite* / *extremely* expensive cars.
8. I *strongly* / *very* advise you to speak to a lawyer


E. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences containing adverbs of degree.

1. extremely / Tom's / well / drives / mother
2. pizza / spicy / rather / was / the
3. we / each / speak / other / hardly / to
4. lesson / long / the / was / English / too

F. Complete each sentence with one of the adverbs of degree below.

barely too really highly enough almost

1. My room isn't big
2. This cake is sweet. I shouldn't have added so much sugar.
3. He is a respected author and has won lots of awards.
4. Is there something wrong with your food? You've touched it.
5. Dinner is ready. You can sit down at the table.
6. I'm hungry, so I hope there is a lot to eat.

G. Complete four sentences with true information and four with false.

1. I really enjoy
2. I'm not very fond of
3. I'm extremely good at
4. I quite like
5. I'm fairly sure that
6. I don't enough.
7. I think is rather dull.
8. I'm pretty bad at

H. Now, read the sentences to a partner to see if they can guess which sentences are true and which are false.